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THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

DECEMBER 2015

festive STYLE

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a chic Christmas

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LIGHTS
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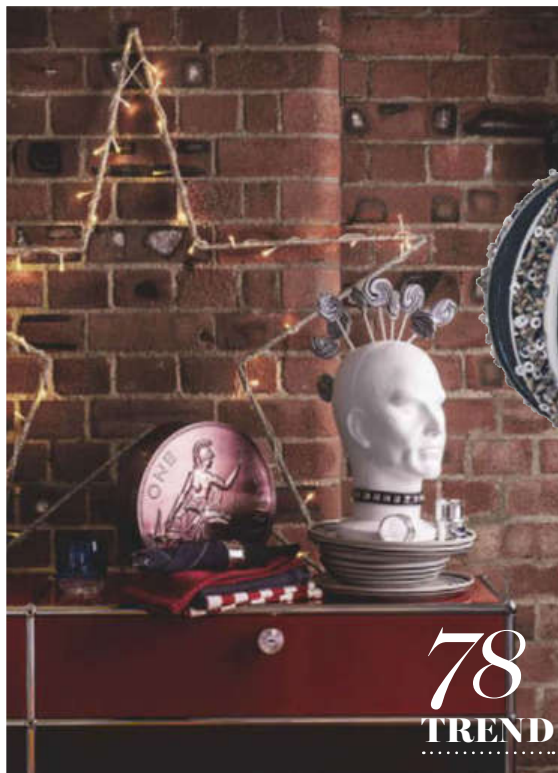


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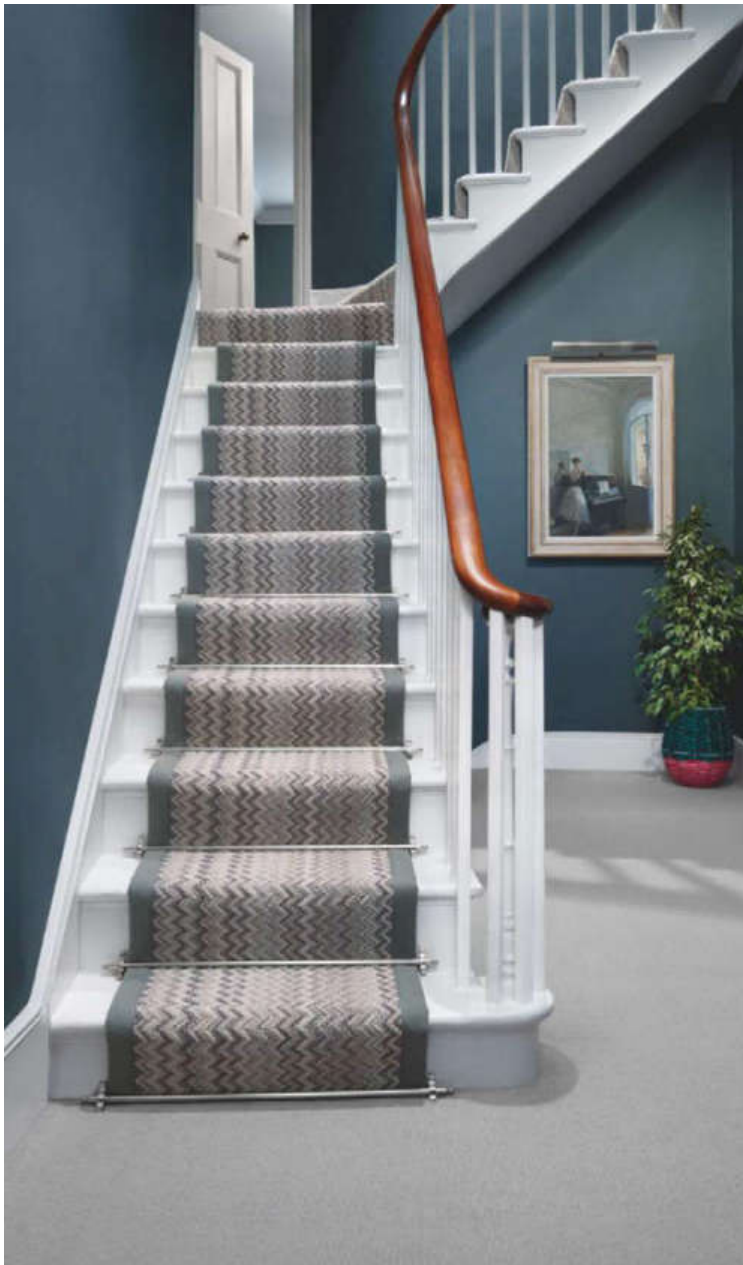
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Stylist, Anglomania

WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP?

Energetic, punctual, fair.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE APP? National

Rail, as I'm always running for trains.

WHAT INTERIORS ACCESSORY CAN'T YOU

RESIST BUYING? Plants. Our kitchen is like

a greenhouse – I'm aiming to keep them all

alive through the winter months this year!

HOW DO YOU DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR CHRISTMAS?

With lights – add a warm fairy light to any situation and it'll feel Christmassy. We still have some up from last year.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT THE FESTIVE

SEASON? Cheese. It's acceptable to constantly graze on

the stuff for weeks, no matter what time of day.



Philippa Craddock

Florist, A magical Christmas

WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP? Calm, enthusiastic, fun-loving.

IF YOU WERE A SHADE OF PAINT, WHAT

COLOUR WOULD YOU BE? Little Greene's

Whitening, as pristine white spaces create

tranquillity and clarity for me.

WHAT'S THE MOST UNUSUAL PROJECT

YOU'VE DONE? Turning a London cathedral into 'a ruined

space coming back to life' with a mass of beautiful and

ancient-looking trees, ethereal blossoms and earthy moss.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

Downtime, long walks, roaring open fires, the scent of the

Christmas tree, choral music and brandy butter.

HOW DO YOU DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR CHRISTMAS?

Simply and absolutely with the children involved, so the

finished look is often less than perfect, which I adore!



Paul Craig

Photographer, Never-ending story...

WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP? Wilful, passionate, naughty.

IF YOU WERE A SHADE OF PAINT, WHAT

COLOUR WOULD YOU BE? I'd want to be

Little Greene's Lamp Black, as it's rich, deep,

complex and chic, but I'm probably more

white masonry paint – the trade version.

WHAT'S THE MOST UNUSUAL SHOOT YOU'VE DONE?

Shooting my own house. It's weird. I know it too well.

IN ANOTHER LIFE, YOU'D BE... In really good shape.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION? A

shadow box filled with memories made by my mum.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

I'm supposed to say family time, aren't I? But it's presents.

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Four children? Check. One lively dog? Check.

A huge house filled to the brim with festive paraphernalia? Check. Yes, the **Livingetc** Christmas shoot was in town for a week of baubles, fur throws and fake snow. When I popped down to the location, the place was a sensory overload of eucalyptus scent, mince-pie mountains and over-excited children – basically, all the ingredients for a perfect family Christmas. Lucky, then, that the decorating ideas are super-simple but highly effective. See the results of our madcap week in our *A Magical Christmas* story (page 59) and catch some behind-the-scenes shots on *#Planet Livingetc* (page 186).

We've also spent much of this month debating the best gifts of the year and, after many discussions, we finally edited our wish list down to 215 fabulous buys (sorry Santa!). From cheeky stocking fillers to hi-tech gadgets and everything in-between, our 32-page gift guide supplement is a one-stop shopping source of ideas for all your nearest and dearest, with even a few suggestions for that all-important 'present-for-myself' moment!

And for those who are more Bah humbug! than Ho ho ho!, check out our alternative vision of the festive season, which mixes Westwood's glam with a touch of Sid Vicious' attitude and Mr McQueen's rebellious style (page 78).

Whatever your Christmas looks like this year, I hope it's a good one...

Suzanne Imre, EDITOR

ps We've teamed up with leading interiors website **Clippings.com** to launch **The Livingetc Edit** – our selection of the most gorgeous pieces for your home. From designer lighting to cute egg cups, we've hand-picked the best items for stylish modern living. Go to clippings.com/livingetc and start shopping!

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Suzanne Imre, EDITOR

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AGENDA

Shopping . New People . Design . Events . Treats

TIMELESS ELEGANCE

If the prospect of owning an all-singing, all-dancing Apple Watch wasn't attractive enough, adding the name Hermès will seal the deal. California tech meets French craftsmanship for this ultra-luxe collaboration – and it comes in that rather important orange gift box. *From £1,000 (apple.com)*

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LOVES

FESTIVE FROLICS

Oh, the laughs you'll have with Pippi's Party Photo Booth props. Don a beard, top hat or glasses for some guaranteed hilarity around the dining table. Christmas may only be fleeting, but photos of it last a lifetime... Fingers crossed there'll be a selfie stick in your stocking. *£12.50 for a set of six – sparkly lips not shown (pipii.co.uk)*

Livingetc SWATCH WATCH

Give yourself an excuse to snuggle around the fire and dress your space in these thick, luxe velvets. The pretty snowflake pattern on Romo's Merletto 7738/03 in Grey Mist, *top right (£75 per m, romo.com)*, has a slight metallic edge, so sparkles with a subtle shimmer. Add punch with a burst of vivid orange from Designers Guild's Zaragoza FDG2333/57 in Paprika, *right (£40 per m, designersguild.com)*, which will spice up even the frostiest of evenings.



Tropical fever

Matthew Williamson has again brought his catwalk flair indoors with his latest fabric and wallpaper collaboration with Osborne & Little. A winter tropics party-on-a-wall, the Cubana collection sees flamboyant flamingos flaunting their feathers, parrots perched on delicate sheers and painterly palm leaves draped across inky-black backgrounds. Williamson's most vivacious interiors offering to date, it draws inspiration from his runway palette of jades, peaches, corals and turquoises. We think this fab wallpaper, *above*, steals the show, with glamorous leopards stalking through rich peacock plumes. *Leopardo W6805-01 wallpaper, £79 per 10m roll (osborneandlittle.com)*

Livingetc
LOVES

TOP THAT

Forget angels, downgrade your stars and top your Christmas tree with this cheery chap from Lladró. Made in collaboration with American design studio FriendsWithYou, it's part of a collection that includes a host of happy baubles, bells and toppers ready to brighten up your branches. And we thought red and white stripes were just for candy canes, huh? £120 (lladro.com)



How deer!

A twist here, an antler there and what do you get? Your own illuminated reindeer herd. Trot over to B&Q and pick up this glowing duo, wondrously spun out of rope lights and ready to roam the garden. From £45 (diy.com)



It's a shoe-in

With their patent-leather shine and ribbon-like laces, AGL's brogues are a gift to yourself you can enjoy all year round. We're coveting this special-edition berry red shade, made especially for the holiday season. Just make sure they don't get dropped into someone else's stocking on Christmas Eve. From £222 (agl.com)



GOLD AMBITION

There'd be almost no need to deck the halls if you owned this lustrous chunk of gold gorgeousness from Graham and Green. But while the Midas chest of drawers may take its name from the mythical, bling-obsessed king, it is, in fact, crafted from solid mango wood, with wave-patterned drawers coated in hammered brass. It's as good as gold, though... £995 (grahamandgreen.co.uk)

3 of the
BEST

Advent calendars



From fairy-tale pop-ups to timeless fill-it-yourself pouches, give yourself a daily dose of style this December. From left: Shaman Night Advent calendar, £14.95, Libretto X Christian Lacroix (harrods.com); chocolate Advent calendar, £11.95 (carluccios.com); and linen Advent calendar, £55 (thelinenworks.co.uk)



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DESIGN CRUSH

This month, we're lusting after...

Liberty



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Liberty's instantly recognisable façade; Juniper stocking, £29.95; and chair covered in Chestnut lanthe linen, £75 per m, Liberty

USP... Known for its witty, quintessentially British style, Liberty curates the finest in furniture, fabrics, fashion and everything in-between. Led by timeless appeal rather than passing fads, the store sources exceptional pieces that can be treasured for a lifetime. Its eclectic collection represents the best in global design, from British labels such as House of Hackney and RE to Danish furniture brand Hay, quirky French ceramics from Astier de Villatte and Italian stalwart Fornasetti. As Oscar Wilde eloquently put it, 'Liberty is the chosen resort of the artistic shopper'.

THE LOWDOWN... It all started in 1875, when Arthur Lasenby Liberty borrowed £2,000 and headed to Regent Street. With the notion of setting up an eastern bazaar, he exhibited his collection of ornaments, fabrics and *objets*, which went down a storm in a society intoxicated with exotic, Oriental style. The company then expanded to meet demand for carpets and furniture, moving into its current home on Great Marlborough Street in 1924, which was purpose-built in its famous Tudor-style using reclaimed timbers from warships. More recently, New Yorker Ed Burstall took the MD reins in 2008, focusing on stylish merchandising, young British designers and forging collaborations for Liberty's floral prints with iconic brands such as Levi's, Barbour and Nike, thus smoothly sailing Liberty into the 21st century.

WHY WE LOVE IT... The buying team hosts an annual British Design Open Call event, inviting new creative talents to present their work. A distinguished panel of industry insiders, including the odd **Livingetc** expert, view hundreds of products to discover the next big thing. As a result, we've come to know Silken Favourites' zesty cushions and Richard Weston's dream-like scarves. The latest addition to the club is Olivia Scott-Taylor's seating – a modern take on classic school chairs.

NEED TO KNOW... Juniper, a new Flowers of Liberty print, has been added to the home accessories range especially for Christmas and will only be available until January – you'll find the design on stockings, above, cake stands and mugs.

STAR BUY... A Flowers of Liberty Roberts Revival radio – the most up-to-date of DAB receivers in a quaint, vintage-style body wrapped in Liberty's in-house Wiltshire fabric. We'd love to find one under the tree... (liberty.co.uk)



BUBBLE-ICIOUS

If you're in need of a little luxury, have a few clicks around interior designer Rachel Bates' new website, which has just gone live. The elegantly curated online boutique showcases own-label designs, as well as collaborations with brands such as Little Greene and Champagne Laurent-Perrier – the only thing to fill this Isadora crystal saucer with. £185 (rachelbatesinteriors.com)



Praise be

Julian Chichester's new Duccio mirror has historic and global influences. Its shape references Islamic tiles, while its quatrefoil-aged glass and weathered grey-oak frame gives it the air of an original piece in a Gothic cathedral. Named after 12th-century Italian painter Duccio di Buoninsegna, it has all the elegance of an early Renaissance masterpiece. £1,337 (julianchichester.com)

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THINK PINK

This year's Christmas will be eye-poppingly bright if you head to Paperchase, which has embraced all things fluoro for the festivities. No need to add lights to this faux fir – just pile on the neon decorations for a look that positively radiates. And leaping to the top of our wish list is this flocked Jackalope, a jack rabbit/antelope mishmash – fantasy animals are a key trend for 2016... 5ft Neon Pink tree, £45; and giant Jackalope, £35 (paperchase.co.uk)

Light show

With so many distractions, it's hard to sit back and relax around yuletide. Our advice? Switch off the electrics and go old school with your décor. Embrace mirrored surfaces such as these tea-light holders and mercury baubles, which bounce flickering candlelight around the room. Time for a singsong? *Fern etched baubles and hexagonal tea-light holders, from £6 each (thewhitecompany.com)*



FRUIT COCKTAIL

We know it's hard to get your five-a-day at Christmas when you're surrounded by panettone. For a cute fruit reminder, latch on to Sophie Hulme's latest keychain collection – this Mr and Mrs Cherry pompom duo leads the pack and there are also fluffy strawberries, blueberries and oranges to pick from. £195 (sophiehulme.com).

Jewel purpose

Inspired by the cut of diamonds, Original BTC's Hatton lighting collection gives a gem-like quality to its bone china shades. The faceted shapes harness the light and turn translucent, creating graphic shadows when switched on. *Hatton 4 floor light, £535 (originalbtc.com)*



SACK IT IN!

Who knew an empty bag could be so much fun? Well, admittedly, this DIY Colour In paper sack comes with a few treats tucked inside it – a choice of crayons, pencils or felt-tips along with stickers illustrated with holly leaves, stars and Santas, just waiting to be coloured in. Add on a personalised name sticker, so you know who got the presents and who got the coal... That's Christmas Eve sorted. *From £15 (notonthehighstreet.com)*



MAGIC SPELL

Make the countdown official with this Cinema Light Box from personalised art enthusiast The Drifting Bear Co. It comes with 69 interchangeable letters, numbers and symbols, so you can light up different messages throughout the year. Or start again for Christmas 2016 as soon as we hit the 26th! £36 (thedriftingbear.com)

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GOLD RUSH

If Dulux's Colour of the Year is anything to go by (which it is), 2016 is set to be seriously glam. Tipped by a panel of colour experts, trend predictors and style gurus to be the next big thing, Cherished Gold is a warm, inviting ochre with historic links to the paintings of the old masters mixed with modern hints of metallic. It really is the only shade your walls should be wearing.

£24.49 for 2.5l (dulux.co.uk)



Livingetc MICRO TREND

PEAR UP

Move over pineapple, there's a new fruit on the menu. You heard it here first – the humble pear has broken out of the orchard to become the next 'it' fruit, so start scrumping. All we need now are the partridges. From top: Pear candle, from £18, Anthropologie (anthropologie.com); Ashby pear ornament, £6, Neptune (neptune.com); and wood pear pot, £21, Graham and Green (grahamandgreen.co.uk)



Plane sailing

The ultimate Christmas gift for the budding pilot, the Speedster Plane comes with personalised words and artwork running along its body. For kids aged one to three, its robust metal structure means it'll withstand the strongest patches of turbulence. £79, plus £2.50 for a custom logo (baghera.co.uk)

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FOOTWORK

If you can't quite manage a whole Chesterfield, Loaf is serving up a bite-sized slice of the classic buttoned number with its adorably named) Dimple footstool. Super-squidgy with the dearest little weathered oak legs, it's a mini marvel. The icing on the cake? It's available in an assortment of more than 120 fabrics/colour combos, so get picking and mixing. From £455, shown here in Turmeric velvet (loaf.com)



Floor show

At a scale never before seen, William Morris's Arts and Crafts masterpieces have been translated into a glorious rug collection. Let the supersized vines and leaves take root on your floors and weave their way through your home – no pruning required. Seaweed rug, from £445 (william-morris.co.uk)





Raising the bar

If there's one time of year that you need a drinks cabinet, it's Christmas, so raise a toast to John Lewis' Puccini design. Crafted in Italy, its high-gloss walnut parquetry makes for a beautiful place to house your – diminishing – gin supplies. Who's for bringing back cocktail hour? **Puccini cocktail cabinet, £1,999 (johnlewis.com)**



IT'S SHOW TIME

Deck the halls, walls and anywhere else you can reach with The National Gallery's Nutcracker garland and decorating kit. Its paper fans, leading men and glittering ballerinas are just waiting to be threaded up to dance through the air. **£12 (nationalgallery.co.uk)**

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Pole star

Stoically holding up a wooden table top, what could be better at offering round your canapés at the Christmas bash than this wicked ice-cool bear? **Polar Bear side table, £99 (bhs.co.uk)**



ONE TO WATCH... Get the lowdown on a future design star



CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE: Biophilia wallpaper, £205 per m; Cylinders velvet, £160 per linear m; Emperor silk bolster cushion, £115; and Diagonal Gradient cotton cushion, £95, all Kit Miles

Kit Miles

WHO? Kit's intricate wallpaper, textile and surface designs stem from seven years of studying textile design. After graduating from the RCA, he founded his eponymous studio in 2011.

WHY? He's stormed the design scene this year, winning the Young Designer award at Dulux's Let's Colour Awards and being picked up by Heal's to collaborate on soft furnishings and stationery.

HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP YOUR STYLE? 'Ornately surreal, futuristic, historic, strong, bright and optimistic.'

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT YOUR WORK? 'I think the colour and imagery I use create an amazing energy and I'm always motivated to build on that. I want people to be thrilled when they see my work. I get very excited when an idea is mature enough to come into the world.'

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION? 'The natural world provides limitless inspiration – strange, precious, fragile – it's a very grand show.'

WHY IS COLOUR SO IMPORTANT? 'Colour for me is freedom and has endless possibilities. I use colour to pull the viewer's eye around a repeat, showing them images and juxtapositions to convey narrative – it's a critical part of storytelling.'

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NEXT? 'A partnership early in 2016 with Osborne & Little and many more collaborations to come.' (kitmiles.co.uk)

cattelan italia

The Place we Live



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A hand with a gold-painted arm holds a chocolate bar, pouring a stream of melted chocolate into a modern interior. The room features a grey sofa, a black side table, a round clock, and a large orange triangle on the wall. A black and white patterned rug is on the floor. A cylindrical pendant light hangs above the sofa.

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- 6** Printed pouch, £295, Versace at Selfridges
- 7** Delphine bar, £2,995, Jonathan Adler
- 8** Glitter pumps, £525, Miu Miu
- 9** Chesterfield footstool upholstered in Giant Multi Parrot Dark Stripe cotton, £810, Kristjana S Williams at Culture Label
- 10** Olympia Le-Tan conjures up a playful style on the autumn/winter 2015 catwalk
- 11** Hat and Butterflies side plate, £30, Melody Rose
- 12** Nutcracker tree decoration, £24 for two, very.co.uk
- 13** Harlequin mask, £5.99, Gisela Graham
- 14** Zeus velvet three-seater sofa, from £5,900, Antonio Citterio for Flexform

Show TIME

Ladies and gentlemen, take your seats for the holiday season's hottest trend, the stage. Opera, ballet, theatre or panto – it's time to get into character and put on a performance (*Oh, no it isn't!*). On the autumn/winter 2015 catwalk, Olympia Le-Tan's leading ladies emerged from the wings in theatrical headgear and harlequin diamonds, while Alberta Ferretti's channeled Shakespeare's Juliet in classic ruffles and Italian embroidery. The curtain's up on homeware too. Applause please for Jonathan Adler's Delphine bar – a tough act to follow with its gleaming costume of mirror panels. While Flexform's Zeus sofa has been brought down from the gods, Cole & Son's Cabaret wallpaper sets the scene for the after-party. There's no business like show business...

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5 Happy Clover dressing cabinet, from £11,900, Mari Ianiq at Treniq **6** Malachite scented candle, £120.20, Fornasetti at farfetch.com
7 Marble coffee table, £249, House Doctor at OVO Home **8** Malachite Oct vase, £118, Jonathan Adler **9** Rima shoes, £695, Rupert Sanderson
10 Malachite cushion, £37, Greg Natale for One Duck Two **11** A model rocks up on Osman's autumn/winter 2015 runway
12 Maya Malachite watch, £195, ToyWatch **13** Malachite espresso cup and saucer, £70, L'Objet at Amara **14** Marble patterned jewellery box, £60, John Lewis
15 Combacio sofa in Malachite Jacquard, £21,300, Nigel Coates for Fornasetti

Stone LOVE

Move over marble, there's a new rock in town – the intense colour and organic pattern of malachite has been unearthed for autumn/winter 2015. Mined for millennia, legend has it malachite increases the wealth of its owner – no surprise then that it's enjoying a resurgence. Issey Miyake's models radiated rich green and black lines, while Osman's catwalk was layered in shimmering stone-like swirls. Homeware's also been mesmerised by the mineral. Nigel Coates's fluid Combacio sofa covered in Fornasetti's undulating Malachite print makes for a gem of a collaboration, while Mari Ianiq takes a chunk of the real thing for its Happy Clover cabinet handle. Hope you've got a pickaxe, because it's time to start digging.

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£7.95, *Harrods*

THE EDITED CHOICE

Xmas baubles

From sophisticated
monochrome to
playful kitsch

Research – Jesse Harris



Winter's Tale scene bauble, £4,
Sainsbury's Home



Shiny Shiny bauble, £1, *B&Q*



Feather bauble, £2.50, *Next Home*



Black and white bauble, £6.25, *Selfridges*

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Pineapple bauble, £8, *House of Fraser*



Cactus bauble, £12.50, *Rockett St George*



Rainbow Mirror Ball bauble, £4.50, *Gisela Graham*



Rocket bauble, £6, *Paperchase*



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Nativity scene baubles, £14.50 each, *Marcello Jori for Alessi*

Snowy Pinecone wreath,
£79.95, Harrods



Vinyl Record wreath, £29, Betsy Benn
at notonthehighstreet.com

Gold Berry wreath,
£10, Tesco Direct



Gold Leaf wreath,
£39.50, M&S



THE EDITED CHOICE

Festive wreaths

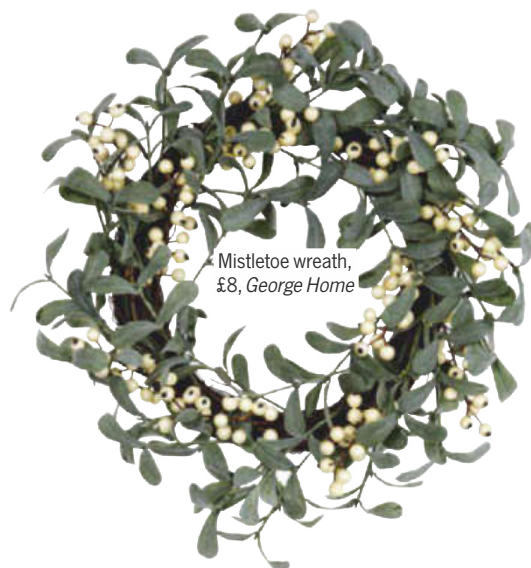
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Research – Jessica Latapie

Fir and Snowberry wreath,
£50, The White Company



Mistletoe wreath,
£8, George Home



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£95, Jo Malone London



Willow wreath, £18,
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Super Slim Green tree (H6ft), £40, Wilko



Keilder Snowy Spruce tree (H6ft), £169.99, Dobbies Garden Centres



Contemporary tree (H2ft), £45, Graham and Green



Black Regal Fir tree (H6ft), £99, very.co.uk



White Silver Glitter tree (H2.5ft), £38.99, Joanna Wood

THE EDITED CHOICE

Christmas trees

From cool and contemporary to gloriously traditional, this lot are oh faux good

Research – Jessica Latapie



Large White tree (H3ft), £199.99, Casafina



Berry and Cone tree (H6ft), £80, Homebase



Arran Large Black and White tree (H3.5ft), £70, Habitat



Champagne Gold tree (H7ft), £180, John Lewis

FOR CONTACTS see lifestyleetc.co.uk/stockists

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DESIGN CLASSIC

Cane mixing bowl

Designer Mason Cash, 1901.

Details Cane mixing bowl in glazed stoneware, available in a range of sizes, from £10, at John Lewis.

Background While we've seen many advances in kitchenware technology and materials over the past hundred years, the Cane mixing bowl from Mason Cash's potteries in Church Gresley, Derbyshire, remains pretty much unchanged.

You don't have to be a *Great British Bake Off* fan to recognise this beauty. Its distinctive warm yellow glaze and markings have made it an icon across the globe. Why? As any cook worth their salt will tell you: the bowl's shape is ideal for holding in the crook of one arm, as you beat your mixture with the other, and its thick rim and diamond embossment provide a good grip. It's also wide and deep enough to get your hands in to 'rub in' and aerate fat and flour, while many use it to knead dough. Its weight and flat bottom ensure it won't slide around while you work and the white interior allows you to keep an eye on the colour and consistency of your mixture. It's also useful for proving bread as, unlike plastic, the stoneware retains heat.

Updates have made the bowl chip-resistant and microwave, freezer and dishwasher safe, so treated carefully, it should last a lifetime and become a potential heirloom. There's something very satisfying about making Christmas pud in the same bowl Gran used... Timeless indeed.



Words Louise Sugrue **Photography** Paul Raeside **Styling** Hannah Franklin **Details** Three Kings mince pies, £13.95 for a box of 12; and Traditional mince pies, £13.95 for a box of six, Forthum & Mason; Twig table, £1,251, Julian Chichester; Bauble Christmas tree, £60, Nordic House; and fairy lights, £15, The White Company



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HOUSE of the MONTH

Wild at heart

Gray and Chase's lakeside home was built with wood and stone, then furnished with design classics, quirky collectables and a whole lot of TLC

Photography – Matthew Williams
Styling – Sarah Cave
Words – Luke Tebbutt

Home profile

THE OWNERS Architect Gray Davis, co-founder of New York practice Meyer Davis, his husband Chase Booth, a set producer, and their dachshunds Nessie and Duke.

THE PROPERTY A new-build house in Copake Lake, New York State. The ground floor has an open-plan kitchen, living area and dining room, plus three guest bedrooms, two en-suite bathrooms and a laundry room. The loft floor has a master bedroom with an en suite and walk-in wardrobe. There is also a basement, used for hosting parties or accommodating additional guests.

FIREPLACE

The fireplace is based on a design originating from the late-18th century, which features a shallow firebox. 'It allows you to have a taller opening, which works well for the room's proportions,' says Gray.

GET THE LOOK This is a Rumford fireplace from US firm Buckley Rumford. Check out Graham and Green for a similar sheepskin rug. Find the Eero Saarinen Tulip side table at Knoll.



COPAKE LAKE

When the lake freezes over, Chase, *left*, and Gray, *right*, take to the ice on their skates or snowmobiles. 'For at least three weeks out of every year, it's pristine and smooth,' says Chase. 'Skating on that ice is heaven.'



— it's the decoration that really counts at Christmas.' So say Gray Davis and his husband Chase Booth, who built this cosy getaway on an island in the middle of Copake Lake, two hours north of New York City.

'The food can be mediocre. So can the wine. But the décor must be spectacular,' says Gray, who relishes going 'all-out in an old-school way' come December, lighting braziers by the water and lanterns along the driveway. 'I realise by "old-school", I really mean pyromania,' he jokes.

It's hard to imagine a more magical setting for the festive season. Not only does the house have a huge stone fireplace inside, but also a frozen lake outside, where the couple host parties for friends and neighbours after dark, dragging sofas, rugs and big batches of home-cooked curries out to the middle of the lake. 'It gets so solid, you can drive a truck on it,' Chase assures us. 'It's incredible on a moonlit night, especially when the ice shifts. It makes these amazing creaking and wailing sounds.'

The pair have lived on the lake for 18 years now and this is their third home here. The first was a renovated Forties cottage and the second was a shiny new build with lots of glass. But this one, on a site across the water from their last home, which they had been ogling for years, is decidedly un-modern. Indeed, it's almost puritanical in its verve to shun contemporary life, with the TV masked behind a goat trophy on the wall and the kitchen appliances concealed inside Shaker-style cupboards.

'Our big inspiration was the old houses you find on the Adirondack Mountains, a couple of hours north from here,' explains Chase. 'We both love the feeling of these eccentric, rambling homes with secret rooms.'

Like those remote Adirondack houses, which were built from whatever materials were available locally, Chase and Gray's home feels like it has been crafted from its rocky, wooded surroundings. The fireplace is made from roughly hewn stone and the walls are clad in pine, which was hand-stained by a local craftsman to give it an uneven, aged quality.

'We wanted the house to have some soul, like it had always been here,' says Gray, who more commonly works with huge sheets of glass (Miami's swanky 1 Hotel South Beach is one of his latest projects). 'Don't get me wrong — I'm crazy about modern architecture, but I just don't think it

would have been appropriate here,' he adds. 'The other houses on the island are very traditional and quiet.'

While Gray managed the design, Chase, who describes himself as a bit of a polymath (he builds sets, makes sculptures and does dance performances), helped construct the house, working with the builders to haul lumber around and keep an eye on progress. 'Gray's the brain and I'm the brawn,' he quips. 'I always join the contractors when we build. They've become like a second family. I like getting my hands dirty, so swinging a hammer is great.'

Inside, the duo filled the house with a mix of mid-century classics and offbeat antiques collected over the years, so the interior feels like it has evolved, rather than been contrived. It's reminiscent of an eccentric professor's den, with taxidermy animals, old busts and, strangest of all, a life-size replica of a Harley-Davidson in wicker. 'It makes absolutely no sense. We just thought, "Wicker motorcycle? Gotta have it",' says Chase, who gave it pride of place in their master bedroom on the loft level.

Downstairs, on the ground floor, there are three more bedrooms for guests and an open-plan kitchen, dining area and living space, which opens on to the water. It's the perfect place for Chase and Gray to entertain (dinner for ten isn't uncommon) and it was also the ideal setting for a very special New Year's Eve party last year, when the couple quietly announced at a dinner for 60 that they had just got married in the local town hall, after 23 years together. 'Gray and I eloped, basically,' jests Chase, who transformed the house into a winter wonderland for the night, draping the walls with canvas, stringing evergreen branches from the ceiling and placing candles pretty much everywhere.

Perhaps it's their partnership, more than their shared love of rustic materials or lighting fires, that gives their home its real soul. 'Houses are like children for us. We create them together, we love what they become and they make us very proud,' says Chase. 'People always ask us if it's stressful building them together, but for us, it's enhancing,' he adds. 'It's a way of exploring something together, like a hermit crab trying on a new shell for size. We like to try on a new life.'

See more of Meyer Davis's work at meyerdavis.com

LIVING AREA

Chase and Gray mixed old materials, such as stone and wood, with modern proportions in the living space, which has 3.5m-tall ceilings and a sofa nearly 4m long. The sofa will be included in a furniture line that Gray's practice is developing. 'Our house is like a laboratory where we can try things out,' he says.

GET THE LOOK The white hide cushions are from Home Nature in New York. The armchair was custom-designed by Gray. The seat of the stool is made out of an antique camel saddle from US store Dabney McAvoy Home – Chase carved and painted the wood support. Find a similar trunk at Retrouvius and a rug like this at Cox & Cox.



ENTRANCE

The industrial-style ceiling light was custom-made for Chase and Gray by their friends Elaine Grant and Matthew Larkin. It has been with them since they first moved to the lake – ‘Every time we move, it’s the one thing we know is coming with us,’ says Chase – and a second one was made for this home.

GET THE LOOK This is the Mack pendant from Grant Larkin. Find a hide rug at The French Bedroom Company.

‘The interior is all pine, so when you open the door, it has this beautiful woody scent’

DINING AREA

The huge paper lantern takes pride of place above the dining table. 'At night when we go out on the lake, we'll turn it on and dim it down and it looks like the moon is setting inside the house,' says Gray.

GET THE LOOK This is the *Akari Light Sculpture* model 120A by Isamu Noguchi. The custom-made table is from US firm *Berkshire Home & Antiques*. These are CH24 *Wishbone* chairs by Hans J Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn. The wood lantern is from *Restoration Hardware*. The black and white photographs on the wall were personal snapshots of a local plumber as a child.



Home truths

WHAT'S YOUR MOST ENDURING CHILDHOOD CHRISTMAS MEMORY? *Gray:* One year, I was given a remote-controlled helicopter, only my father played with it well into the night, before wrapping it. I opened it to discover it was useless for the day. I was crestfallen.

Chase: I was raised a Jehovah's Witness, so the Christmas part of my brain never fully developed, but I'm very handy and really know how to decorate a tree.

WHO'D BE IN YOUR FANTASY FAMILY? *Chase:* The artist Georgia O'Keeffe would make a stern matriarch – we could look at every line on her face over morning coffee. And army general 'Stormin' Norman' Schwarzkopf would make a good disciplinarian. Having two men married in his family would also make for some funny tension.

WHICH THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE HOW YOU GOT TO WHERE YOU ARE? *Gray:* Discipline, instinct, training. *Chase:* I married well.

WHAT'S THE ONE THING THAT MAKES WINTER BETTER? *Gray:* A bonfire on a frozen lake.

AND WHAT SHOULD YOU SAY NO TO? *Gray:* Fake stucco. *Chase:* I hardly ever say no and it gets me into trouble.



KITCHEN ←

Gray designed the kitchen cabinets and island, which faces out to the dining area. 'We wanted the space downstairs to feel open enough so that we could all be together when we have big groups over, but still intimate enough for when it's just the two of us,' he says.

GET THE LOOK The worktop is made of Blue Chevernie limestone from New York firm Empire Granite. Find similar stools at Zara Home. This is an antique Italian monkey lamp from Carousel Antiques in New York.

GUEST BEDROOM →

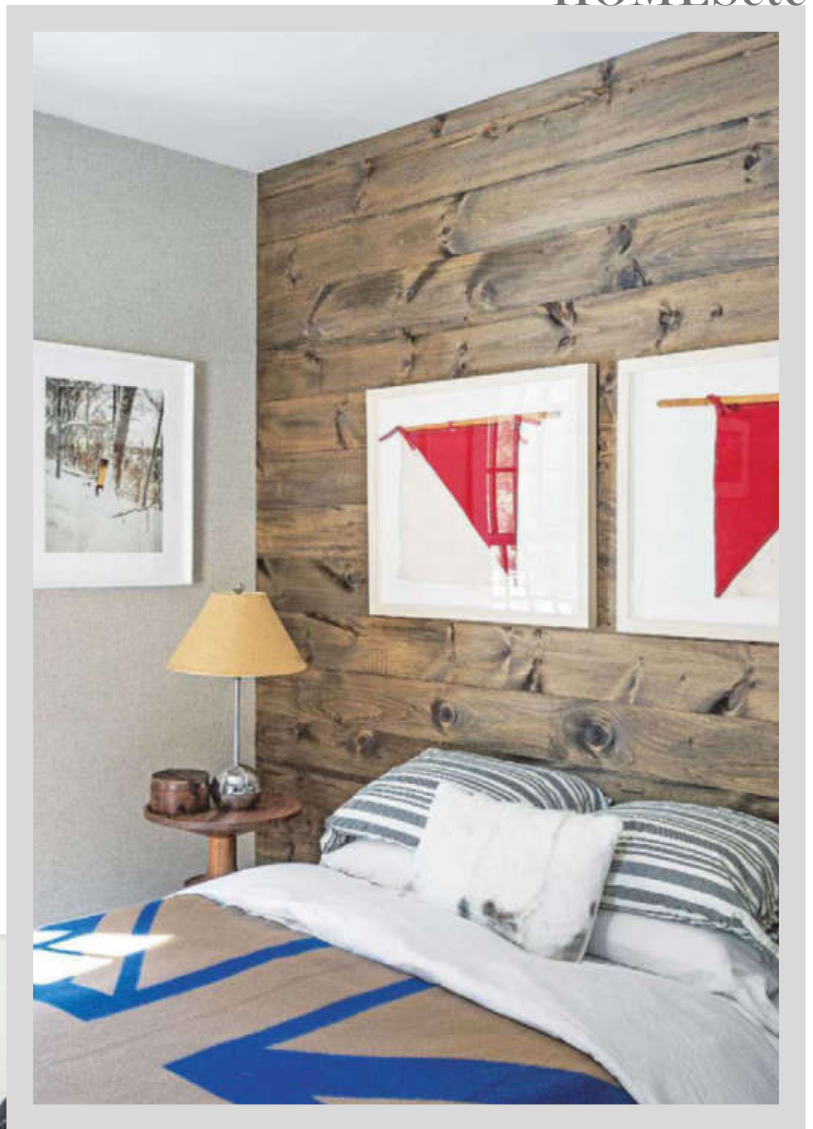
All the walls in the house are lined with flush tongue- and-groove pine, which was stained darker by a local craftsman. 'The stain gets absorbed differently depending on the density of the wood, which creates this nice variation,' says Gray.

GET THE LOOK The bedspread is from Aero Studios in New York. The bed linen is by Thomas O'Brien for Aero. This is a Blu Dot Turn Tall side table. Find a similar table light at BHS. The framed red flags are vintage signal flags.

GUEST BATHROOM ↓

The lower portion of the bathroom wall is covered in white-painted knotty pine cladding, providing a light antidote to the darker materials in the rest of the house. On the wall, a great northern pike has been preserved and framed. 'The interior of the house feels quirky and we like that,' says Gray.

GET THE LOOK Find a similar bath at Victoria + Albert. The taps and shower fixture are from Restoration Hardware. The striped rug is from indiandhurries.com. The branch towel hangers were bought on eBay. The framed pike is from White Whale antiques in New York.



'We like to have guests over and entertain and the house works incredibly well for that'



MASTER BEDROOM

The carpeted master bedroom is set beneath the eaves, with four large dormer windows, and conceived as a more private and luxurious space than the ground floor. As with the rest of the house, the room is lined with pine, with the walls stained dark, and the ceiling is finished with a pale-grey whitewash.

GET THE LOOK This is a Blu Dot Dodu King bed in Thurmond Wheat. The bed linen and checked blanket are by Thomas O'Brien for Aero Studios. The 19th-century trunk and bust in the corner are from New York's Sutter Antiques. The wicker Harley-Davidson is from ASH.

Livingetc loves

THE STAINED PINE WALLS, which give this new-build home an aged, rustic look.

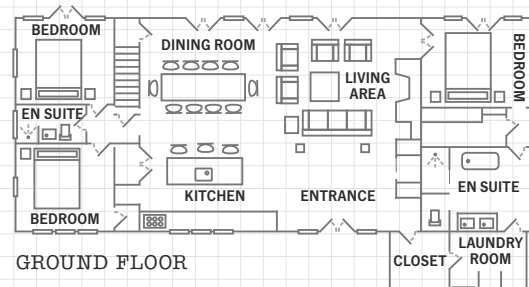
STATEMENT PENDANT LIGHTS, such as the giant paper lantern and bespoke industrial-style lights.

THE WICKER HARLEY-DAVIDSON. Sometimes one quirky piece is enough to flip the dynamic of a room.

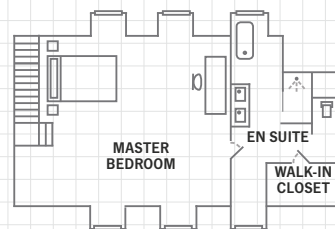
ROUGH-AND-READY MATERIALS, such as unevenly laid stone around the fireplace, make this home feel like it's a part of its rocky setting.

DISCREET DESIGN – Gray and Chase altered their design for the house to avoid cutting down trees, so it remains camouflaged among its wooded setting.

The blueprint



GROUND FLOOR



LOFT FLOOR



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KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Timber **wallpaper** in Driftwood, £77.90 per 10m roll, Andrew Martin at Houseology; Police Box **matt emulsion**, £19 for 2.5l, Graham & Brown at wallpaperking.co.uk; and Oak White oiled **floorboards**, £65.82 per sq m, Ecora



KEY FEATURE Stone chimney breast

The interior of Gray and Chase's house reflects its rocky and wooded surroundings, with pine-clad walls and a chimney breast made from roughly hewn stone. To replicate the cosy and characterful effect of the wall shown here, contact Fernhill Stone (fernhillstone.com), which specialises in supplying lightweight stone cladding that is easy for you or your builder to fix to interior walls. Expect to pay from approx £40 per sq m, depending on the type of stone and the thickness of the cladding.

KEY PRODUCTS



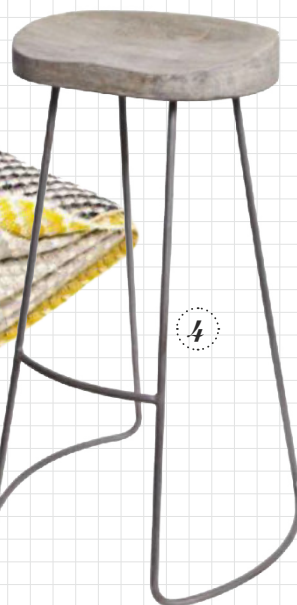
1



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4



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6



7

1 Titanic Centre Belfast print, £58 (frame not included), Bronagh Kennedy at notonthehighstreet.com
2 Highland cow head, £75, Abigail Ahern/EDITION at Debenhams
3 Michaela throw, £84.99, WoolMe
4 Roger bar stool, £79, French Connection Home
5 Candelabra, £15.99, Zara Home
6 Desk lamp, £125, homecandy.com
7 Kenta oak dining table, £2,295, Lombok

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Parson **dining chairs** in, from left, Castle Grey, Ocean Teal and Powder White, £199 for a pair, Made.com with Livingetc

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at made.com/livingetc*

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Iona dining table, £599; Iona bench, £259; Braid rug, £249; Mist pendant shades, £49 each, Parson dining chairs in, from left, Castle Grey, Ocean Teal, Powder White, Quarry Grey and Ocean Teal, £199 for a pair; and Quin cabinet, £499, all Made.com with Livingetc

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Photography – Paul Raeside
Styling – Hannah Franklin

A magical Christmas

Take a palette of icy whites, forest greens and woodland browns, add cosy Nordic accents and a sprinkling of Narnia for a bewitching festive scheme

For details, turn overleaf.



ABOVE **Wreath**, from £250, Philippa Craddock. **Shangai sofa**, £9,319, Carlo Colombo for Poliform. **Longwool Quatro sheepskin**, £475, Heal's. **Cushion** made from Ion K5107/31 velvet, £32.50 per sq m, Kirby Design. **Twig table**, £1,251, Julian Chichester. **White trees**, £20 each, Cardboard Christmas at Etsy. **Tirol champagne flute**, £30 for a set of four, LSA International. **Pom Pom throw**, £116, Sweetpea & Willow. **OPPOSITE PAGE Norway spruce**, £300, Dobbies Garden Centres. **Sofa, sheepskins and wreath**, all as before. **Giant snowflakes**, from £29 each, Cardboard Christmas at Etsy. **Pebble Convex table**, £1,507, Nathan Yong for Ligne Roset. **Wood Christmas houses**, £14.99 each, Wyevale. **White trees**, £14.99 each, Homebase. **Pre-lit Christmas house**, £24, very.co.uk. **Scene in glass trees**, £14.99 each, Dobbies Garden Centres. **Prosecco**, £12.50, Daylesford. **Mince pie**, £13.95 for six, Fortnum & Mason. **Fox bowl**, £14, Urban Outfitters. **Snow**, £11.40 per bag, DZD. **Owl tree topper**, £26.95 for two, Harrods. **Multi tree decorations**, £9 for a pack of 50, B&Q. **Marabou feather tree decorations**, £4.50 each, Rockett St George. **Glass dome tree decorations**, £9.99 each, Gisela Graham. **Candle lights**, £19.99 for 50, lights4fun.co.uk. **Eden King rug**, £1,350, Marcel Wanders for Moooi Carpets at Chaplins. **Crown**, £39.99; and **sword**, £5.59, Amazon. **PREVIOUS PAGE Pine cones**, from £6 each, Rowen & Wren. **Advent calendar house**, £48, Laura Ashley. **Bell jars**, £795, Graham and Green. **In bell jars, fairy lights**, £15 for a set, The White Company; and **Multi tree decorations**, as before. **Lion statue**, £83.99, Wayfair. **Crown**, as before. **Hoverdrone Nano**, £69.95, Harrods. **Dog lead**, £39, Houndworthy. **Stair garland**, from £50 per m, Philippa Craddock. **Wood tree decorations**, £9 each, Sebastian Cox at Heal's. **Glass and feather tree decoration**, £9.95 for three, Nordic House.

From left, Olive wears turtle neck, from £12, Boden; sweat pants, £9.99, Linde; and hair clip, £1.99, H&M. Lila wears Fair Isle cardigan, from £30, Boden; top, £6.99 (for a set), H&M; leggings, £39, Naty Scandinavia; and headband, £6, M&S; Sarah wears model's own; and Theo wears cardigan, from £25 Boden; T-shirt, £16.90, Amazon; and Klaus trousers, £40, Elife





A moment of *calm*

The simple pleasure of anticipation and a subtle hint spelt out to Santa on the bookcase create a welcome pause amid the frolics and festivities.

ABOVE LEFT Grand Repos **armchair**; Post Office **shelving**; and its contents – for details, see *below*. Kenta **bench**, £1,475, Lombok. Christmas **stocking**, £55, Lauren Aston at notonthehighstreet.com. Fox **toys**, £8 for a set of two, Ikea. **Rug**, **sheepskin rug** and giant **snowflake**, all as before. ABOVE RIGHT Metallic white **wrapping paper**, £3 per 2m roll, Paperchase. Jute **twine**, £2 for 33m, Hobbycraft. Faux **eucalyptus**, £4.95 per spray, MiaFleur. OPPOSITE PAGE Grand Repos **armchair**, £4,314, Antonio Citterio and Vitra at Harrods. Post Office **shelving**, £6,795, Pinch. Honeycomb **decorations**, £6 for a pack of three, Talking Tables. Forest Green **trees**, from £13.95 each, The Hanging Lantern Company. Monogram **mugs**, £6 each, Anthropologie. Orlando **owl**, £29; and Apothecary **bottles**, £25 each, Rockett St George. Green Kindred **vase**, £50, Dartington at Heal's. Stag **bookends**, £85 for a pair, MiaFleur. **Crown** and **sword**, as before. White and green **trees**, £20 each, Cardboard Christmas at Etsy. Dark green Cashmere **vases**, from £45 each, LSA International. Waves concrete **vases**, £37 each; and Victorian bird and cat **sculptures**, £47 each, all BoConcept. Dutch canal house **candleholders**, £59 for three, Plümo. Feather and Multi **tree decorations**, candle **lights**, **spruce tree**, **rug**, **wrapping paper** and **twine**, all as before.





Ice kingdom

An icicle chandelier, frosted wine glasses, a scattering of sheepskins plus a pared-back, Scandi-chic table create a dining room scheme fit for a snow queen.

ABOVE LEFT Star **bell jar** and tray, £9.95, Nordic House. Table **scatter stars**, £4.75 for a bag, Pipii. Tisbury **plate**, £10, Jasper Conran for Wedgwood. Nordic **charger plate**, £12.50, M&S. Rustic **runner**, from £16.99; and **napkin**, £7.99, LinenMe. Natures Marker **plant label**, £18 for a set of five, Rowen & Wren. Pearl-coloured **cutlery**, from £1.99 per piece, Zara Home. Nordic **wine glass**, £25 for four, M&S. Faux **eucalyptus**, as before. Silver Birch Connoisseur **cracker**, £29.50 for a box of six, M&S. **Table** – for details, see *below*. ABOVE RIGHT Nordic **lanterns**, from £5 each, The White Company. Bristle **trees**, £4.99 for two, Gisela Graham. **Snow**, as before. Pepper berry **garland**, £40, House of Fraser. **Runner** and **wine glass**, as before. Mabel **candlestick**, from £11 for a pair; and taper **candle**, £9 for ten, Rowen & Wren. Skye snowy **fir tree**, £180, John Lewis. **Table** – for details, see *below*. OPPOSITE PAGE Oak **table**, £5,500, Osprey London. Skye **fir tree**, as before. Antler 5 **pendant light**, £110, Next Home. Faux **eucalyptus**, as before. Icicle **tree decorations**, £3 each, George Home. Shanxi **stool**, £95, Lombok. Wishbone **chairs**, £575 each, Hans J Wegner for Carl Hansen & Son at The Conran Shop. Originals Stacking **chairs**, from £315 each, Ercol at Heal's. Luxury **sheepskin rugs**, £55 each, Graham and Green. **Lanterns, snow, bristle trees, runner, napkins, wine glasses, plates, charger plates, candlesticks, candles, garland and cracker**, all as before. Tisbury **cereal bowls**, £11 each, Jasper Conran for Wedgwood. Paper **gingerbread house**, £12.95 for eight, The Hanging Lantern Company. Serve **cake stand**, £70 for a set of three, LSA International. Tree **cake stand**, £100, Cairn Wood Design at notonthehighstreet.com. **Cheese and biscuit selection**, Daylesford.





Flights of fantasy

A side table that looks like it could walk, seats and cushions fashioned into iced tree stumps and resting angel wings only add to the enchantment.

ABOVE Twig **table**, £1,251, Julian Chichester. Serenity feather **balloons**, from £29.95 each, Bubblegum Balloons. **Bell jar** with white house, £15, BHS. **Candelabra**, £19.99, Zara Home. **Candle**, £8 for 20, Rowen & Wren. White **trees**, as before. Twig **trees**, £15 each; and glitter **reindeer**, £12.50, Debenhams. Nordic white **deer**, £11, Metal House. Silver **wreath**, £185, Petersham Nurseries. OPPOSITE PAGE Greywash **angel wings**, £175 for a pair, Cox & Cox. Pheasant **feathers**, 50p each, Ostrich Feather Company; dipped in green **glitter**, from £1.50, Hobbycraft. Gold **tape**, £2.95 per 10m roll, The Polka Paperie at Etsy. Faux **eucalyptus**, as before. Feather **baubles**, £4 each, John Lewis. Acorn **tree decorations**, £8.99 each, Joanna Wood. Irid **bristle trees**, from £8.99 each, Gisela Graham. **Chairs**, sheepskin **rug**, **table runner**, **napkin**, **bowl**, **plates** and **cracker**, all as before. Personalised Christmas **sacks**, £21.99 each, Harrow & Green at Selfridges. Lion and polar bear **masks**, approx £4.35 each, My Little Day. Forest Tree **seat**, £129.99, Array Collection at notonthehighstreet.com. Log **floor cushion**, £79, Dwell. Circle **gift tag**, £4.95 for pack of 18, Pipii.





Deck the halls

A lush green stair garland provides a warm welcome and fills the space with a gorgeous woody scent. Natural decs and LED candles keep the mood light.

ABOVE LEFT Lion with parcel **decoration**, £6, John Lewis. Log **floor cushion**, **bristle trees**, **sacks**, Nordic **charger plate**, **gift tag** and **angel wings**, all as before. ABOVE RIGHT Norway **spruce**, £300, Dobbies Garden Centres. Winter's Tale Scene **bauble**, £4, Sainsbury's. Marabou feather **tree decoration**, £4.50, Rockett St George. Candle **lights**, £19.99 for 50, lights4fun.co.uk. OPPOSITE PAGE Stair **garland**, from £50 per m, Philippa Craddock. Silver glitter **sprays**, £4.99 each, Dunelm. Wood **tree decorations**, £9 each, Sebastian Cox at Heal's. Glass and feather **tree decorations**, £9.95 for three, Nordic House. Wood **bike**, £60, Great Little Trading Company. Church **pillar candles**, £9.99 for two; and wax LED **pillar candles**, £10.99 for five, all lights4fun.co.uk. *Take the Bull by the Horns* and *Deer Skull* framed **prints** by Kate Kessling, £750 each, Rockett St George. Green **boughs**, cut from spruce tree. Hanging metal **bird**, £5, RE. Penguin **toy**, £45; and polar bear **toy**, £95, The White Company. Vintage **sleigh**, £326.70, Wayfair. **Console** and **accessories**, all as before. Faux-fur **coat**, £275, Ruby + Ed.

From left, Lila wears cardigan, top, leggings and headband, as before. Olive wears turtle neck, sweat pants and hair clip, as before. Theo wears cardigan, T-shirt and trousers, as before.





Wardrobe *surprise*

*With a thick rug underfoot, a clever use of woodland wallpaper and a little imagination...
you too can be transported to another world.*

ABOVE LEFT *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis **first edition**, £2,500, London: Geoffrey Bles at Peter Harrington. Christmas 2015 **snow globe**, £60, Wedgwood. Green glitter cone **tree decoration**, £4.99, Wyevale. String **lights**, £10, George Home. ABOVE RIGHT Advent **calendar bags**, £15 for a set of 24, The White Company. Wood **bow**, £90, Little Paris. **Arrow**, hand-made by stylist from a stick. **Snow globe**, as before. Faux ivy **garland**, £6 for 1.9m, Hobbycraft. OPPOSITE PAGE Chichester Original **wardrobe**, £1,400, Neptune; with panels covered in Woods & Stars 103/11050 **wallpaper**, £78 per 10m roll, Cole & Son. *Burning Leaves, Kensington Gardens* **mural**, from £60 per sq m, The Royal Photographic Society at Surface View. Kensington **screen**, £345, The French Bedroom Company. Windsor **rocking chair**, £2,295, Katie Walker for Heal's. Welcombe **throw**, £250, Lauren Aston at notonthehighstreet.com. Sheepskin **slippers**, £69, Toast. Cato **rug**, £869, BoConcept. Pre-Lit Snowy Twig **tree**, £80, John Lewis. Ultimate beaded **star**, £60, The White Company. **Wrapping paper**, from £2 per 3m roll, Hobbycraft; and **wrapping paper**, £3 per 2m roll, Paperchase. Desk **clock**, £22, Anthropologie. Faux-fur **coat**, £295, Ruby + Ed. Paper **hanging decoration**, from £1.50, RE. Winter's Tale Scene **bauble**, as before.

From left, Lila wears top, £10, Boden; tutu, £39, Nativ Scandinavia; and long johns, £44.50, Smalls. Olive wears striped top, from £12, Boden; long johns, £21, Petit Bateau; and crown with train, approx. £18, My Little Day





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Layer up with throws for a luxe feel.*

Manoir king-size sleigh **bed**, £5,050, And So To Bed. Faux ivy **garland**, as before. Aurora feather **pendant shades**, £84 each, Graham and Green. Neat **rug**, £849, BoConcept. Lattice king-size **duvet cover**, £140; and Lattice Oxford **pillowcase**, £25, Harlequin. **Bed linen** in Pewter, from £40, Casa Couture for House of Fraser. Goatskin **cushion**, £59, Dwell. Springbok **rug**, £85, Graham and Green. Ivory faux-fur **throw**, £240, Heal's. Night 'n' Day plaid **throw**, £99, BoConcept. In/Out bottle **vases**, from £235 each, Paola Navone for Gervasoni at Milk Concept Boutique. Reclaimed wood **side tables**, £218 each, Anthropologie. **Snowglobe**, as before. Apple and leaf **tree decorations**, £2.99 each; and glitter cone **tree decorations**, £4.99 each, all Wyevale. **Lights**; Advent Calendar **bags**, **bow** and **arrow**, all as before. **Pyjamas**, £38, Linea at House of Fraser. **Remote control** for Hoverdrone Nano, £69.95, Harrods.



End of the story

The adventures may have come to a close, but the magic continues outside for our modern-day kings and queens.

Wreath, £56, O.K.A. Vintage **implements**, from £85 each; and **reindeer**, £1,500 for two, all I&JL Brown. Green **baubles**, £3.99 for a pack of 12, Dobbies Garden Centres. Pop-up **tree**, £49, very.co.uk. Vintage **antlers**, £70, Junk Deluxe. Star **faery lights**, £15, The White Company. Aspen Nordic **trees**, £30 for a set of three, Neptune. **Sword** and **snow**, as before.

Shoot coordinator Brittany Dawson. **Styling assistants** Jesse Harris, Andrea Mongenie and Tessa Fish. Special thanks to Olive, Lila, Theo, Noah and George the dog. *From left*, Noah wears hat, £18; Sherpa Reefer coat, from £70; jeans, from £26; and trainers, from £35, all Boden. Theo wears blazer, £89.95; Scotch & Soda; scarf (part of a set), £22; Boden; trousers, £40; Elife; and Chelsea boots, from £58. Step2wo. Olive wears hair clip; scarf (part of a set), £28; Boden; vegan fur coat, £45; Nativ Scandinavia; and mittens, £40; Smallable; sweat pants, as before; and wellies, £12; Muddy Puddles. Lila wears Hatmask, £39; Luluzulu at Scandi Mini; faux-fur coat, £39.99; H&M; leggings, £39; Nativ Scandinavia; and high-tops, from £30, Boden.

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TREND inspiration

ANGLO *mama*

Never mind the tinsel... Punk up your Christmas with anarchic reds, bondage tartans and a punch of neon. Subversion rules, okay?



Photography – Simon Bevan
Styling – Jo Bailey

ROCK'N'ROLL LICKS

Greet your guests with sweets and treats, served in seditious style.

Modular **sideboard** (also opposite), £2,555, USM at Aram Store. Mixology Argon **tumbler**, £100 for two, Waterford. Penny **biscuit tin**, £10, BHS. **Napkins**, stylist's own. Grosgrain **napkin rings**, £45 for a set of four, Vera Wang for Wedgwood. **Mannequin head**, £8.50, Morplan. **Lollipops**, £1 for four, Tiger. **Choker**, £2.05, Amazon. **like dinnerware**, from £8, Habitat. Beaded **star**, £60, The White Company. **Fairy lights**, £16.99, lights4fun.co.uk.



CLOSE TO THE BONE

Spiky baubles and Goth-friendly accessories give table settings added attitude.

Bourbon Vintage **dining table**, £329, Made.com. Organic Highback **armchair**, £1,610.40, Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen for Vitra. Disc **stools**, £239 each, Bowles & Bowles. Réaction Poétique 01 **centrepiece**, on table, £468, Jaime Hayón for Cassina at Aram Store. **Skull Tidies**, £40 each, SUCK UK. **Spike balls**, £7.50 each, The Conran Shop. Patchwork **runner**, £360, Mahala. **Cutlery**, £32 for a five-piece setting, Anthropologie. **Drumsticks**, £9.99, Dolphin Music. Chequered **rug**, £3,575.50, Deirdre Dyson. **Ozzy floor lamp**, on window ledge, £79, Made.com. Red sparkle **baubles**, £3 each, M&S. Beaded **stars**, fairy lights, **sideboard**, dinnerware and **napkin**, all as before.



HEART ATTACK

Kick out the old – ring in the new. This two-fingered salute to trad displays sets the pulse racing...

Ebbie **console table**, £275, Habitat. *On console*, **Left Hand**, £95, Ceramic Matters at The Conran Shop; PomPom **key ring**, £6, Bohemia; Heart **vase**, £67.50, Rockett St George; Noir **candlesticks**, from £55 a pair, Vera Wang for Wedgwood; and **candles**, £4 each, Luna & Curious. Reindeer **light**, £95, John Lewis. **Ribbon**, £2.70, Hobbycraft. **Fairy lights**, £16.99, lights4fun.co.uk. **Chain**, £6.55 per m, Urban Cottage Industries. Recycled **rug**, £500, Nudie Jeans. Metro hall **stand**, £269, BoConcept. **Wreath**, £35, M&S. Windmill Tartan **blazer**, £485, Vivienne Westwood Anglomania at Net-a-Porter. Dr Martens **boots**: adults', from £105; and kids', from £50.



BACK TO BLACK

Strikingly dark decs keep the groove moody. Graffiti-style prints big up the streetwise vibe.

Vermeer **Christmas tree**, £84, B&Q. **Tree topper**, £20, The Conran Shop. **Baubles**, from £3 each, Luna & Curious. Humbug **baubles**, on table and floor, £6 for two; and Noella **decorations**, on chair and tree, £4 each, all Habitat. Electra **armchair**, £1,434, Calligaris. Zeppelin **sofa**, £1,100, sofa.com. Page **coffee table**, £1,295, Ines Cole at Liberty. Fiesta **tumbler**, £4, John Lewis. **Cake stand**, £25, BHS. Chocolate **coins**, £1 for a bag, Sainsbury's. Poinsettia **wreath**, £20, B&Q. **Alexander McQueen book**, £45, V&A Shop. Clowns **rug**, £16,000, Jan Kath for Front London. Verona **floor light**, £199, M&S. Classic **radiator**, from £439, Bisque. Preston **console table**, £299, Swoon Editions. Linea **neon light**, £52, Graham and Green. *Mick Jagger II* by Eddie Lawrence framed print, £1,500, Trowbridge Gallery. Scribble Orb **cushion**, £465; and Prince Charming **cushion**, £395, Vivienne Westwood for The Rug Company at Harrods.



BOOKISH BONDAGE

Tie neon lights round furnishings to create an alternative Christmas tree – crowned with an offbeat topper.

Nuvola Rossa **bookcase**, £2,682, Vico Magistretti for Cassina at Aram Store. **Pigeon on Bowler Hat**, £525, London Taxidermy at Osprey London. **LED rope light**, £26.99, lights4fun.co.uk. Glass **globes**, £9.75 each; and Cashmere **vases**, from £45 each, all LSA International. **Bouquet**, £75, Rebel Rebel. **Wrapping paper**, £3.50 per roll; **bows**, from 50p each; and **ribbon**, £1.75, all Paperchase. Black Ice Snow **scooter**, £590, Micro Scooters. Chevron **rug**, £40, Next Home. Ramones framed **poster**, £169.99; and **posters**, used as wrapping paper, from £7.99 each, Allposters. Pointing finger **light**, £29.95, Rocket St George.



STORM THE PALACE

Indulge in outrageous behaviour by chucking decs around the space – pooch can act as lookout.

Coloured Honeycomb **decorations**, from £8.50 each, RE. White Honeycomb **decorations**, £6 for a pack of three, Talking Tables. Pinner king-size **four-poster bed**, £945, Heal's. French Linen **bedding**, from £18 for a pillowcase, Soak&Sleep. Check **throws**, £79 each, M&S. Icelandic **sheepskin**, £140, Cox & Cox. Ruby **rug**, £7,155, Deirdre Dyson. The Doggielounge **dog bed**, £61.95, Fatboy at Houseology. Masai tartan **dog lead**, £33.50, PetsPyjamas. Bigger **side table**, £774, Carlo Colombo for Poliform. Arris **desk clock**, £85, Wedgwood. Type 75 **desk lamp**, £160, Paul Smith Edition 2 for Anglepoise. Sex Pistols 1977 **photographic print**, £540, 55 Max. Patti Smith in Amsterdam framed **print**, £94.99, Allposters. White **wrapping paper**, from £3.50 per roll, M&S. Black and White **wrapping paper**, £1 per sheet, Tiger.



HANG 'EM HIGH

Overturn convention by stringing baubles from a pendant – Sid Santa would definitely approve.

Beaded **chandelier**, £495, Graham and Green; dressed with **baubles**, from £3 each, Debenhams; and **ribbon**, £5, Paperchase. Cornelia **rocking chair**, £878, Giorgio Cattelan for Cattelan Italia at Harrogate Interiors. Richards **side table/stool**, £695, Julian Chichester. **Canary on perch**, £375 (with glass dome), London Taxidermy at Osprey London. Red Planet **decorations**, from £10 each, The Conran Shop. Broadway Star **floor lamp**, £139, Made.com. Sheepskin **rug**, £300, Cox & Cox. **Union Jack**, £48, Round Wood Of Mayfield. **Wrapping paper**, £3.50 per roll; and **ribbon**, £1.75, Paperchase. 1460 **boots**, £105, Dr Martens. **Father Christmas suit**, £50 for a three-day hire, Escapade. Leather **jacket**, £350, Boden. **Zoo Portrait: Skunk** by Yago Partal **print**, £1,095, Subject Matter. Satin **ribbon**, £1.75, Paperchase.

Introducing

The Livingetc Edit

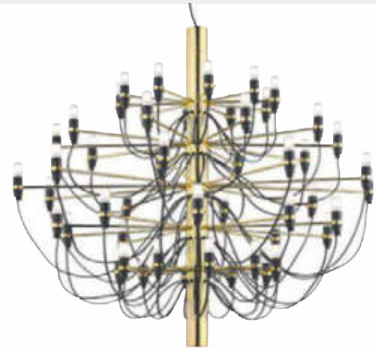
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White Bookshelf wallpaper, *Mineheart*



Street View tableware, *Parasite Ceramics*



2097 chandelier, *Flos*



Scarpa sideboard, *Wewood*

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Geo vacuum flask, *Normann Copenhagen*



Kitchen utensils, *Segno Italiano*



J110 chair, *Hay*



Lattice cushion cover, *Niki Jones*

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HOMIES

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ROCK'N'ROLL CHRISTMAS

Festivities hit a new groove in this edgy Cotswold barn

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GRAND SLAM

A Cape Town mansion gets the look it deserves – ultra-glam

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FRENCH FANCY

This chic Paris apartment has a New York loft dynamic

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NEVER-ENDING STORY...

The cool, pared-back London home that embraces change-



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rock'n'roll CHRISTMAS

And blues and soul... Jane and Jonny's converted barn is in perfect harmony with its surroundings – and in tune with the modern aesthetic too

Photography – Jonathan West
Styling – Jane Molloy
Words – Lola Borg





Home profile

THE OWNERS Jane Molloy, an interiors stylist, and her partner Jonny West, an interiors photographer, plus Boston Terriers Jonah and Pip.

THE PROPERTY Three Grade II-listed barns in the Cotswolds, built round a central courtyard. Two barns are used as guest houses, while the largest is where Jane and Jonny live. On the ground floor is a living room, kitchen-diner, utility room, dark room, two bedrooms and bathroom. There's also a mezzanine studio.

LIVING ROOM

'We have the height here to bring in a 12ft tree,' says Jane. Bought locally, it's dressed with old family pictures, ribbons and a mix of vintage and modern baubles. 'I still like to go to London markets,' says Jane, 'and I got a lot of these at Portobello Road.'

GET THE LOOK The fairy lights on the tree are from lights4fun.co.uk. The fairground bike, left, is from antiques dealer Ben Southgate. The blue child's car, above, was found at a French flea market.

LIVING ROOM

The painting hides a flat-screen TV. 'All our tellies are hidden by paintings – we just put them up again when we're not watching,' says Jane.

GET THE LOOK The Mona painting by Hector de Gregorio is from opus-art.com. This is a Turin chair by Julian Chichester. The wood-burning stove is a vintage French Salamander design. The antique desk lamp is from Circus. This is an Asan Jade rug by The Rug Company.



'Our home is full of things that mean something

to Jonny and I,' says Jane Molloy. She's not kidding – she can reel off the provenance of seemingly every object in their house. That Charles Aznavour print in the kitchen? Ripped off a tree in the South of France by her father back in 1973. The Chesterfield sofa? Found abandoned in the King's Road. The bathroom basin? It once belonged to Aussie rock star Nick Cave. Jane's philosophy is that interiors are important – she is a stylist, after all, but it's vital to have possessions that 'nourish' and give enjoyment – and she uses this ethos in her work for clients too. The Cotswolds barn, full of quirky items mixed with eBay and market finds, has personal touches in spades.

And at this time of year, it's all about family and friends here. Jane and her partner Jonny West gather everyone to flit between their three converted buildings – two haylofts and a lambing shed. The couple live in the largest, the other two are for guests and they all spend a chilled Christmas together. Weave in every revamped country cliché, from the log fire in a vintage burner, a huge tree dressed with retro baubles and spruce branches mixed with eucalyptus decking the halls, and you pretty much have idyllic, modern rustic sewn up.

It wasn't always this way. Five years ago, Jane was living in London's Notting Hill – 'I'm a city girl, born and bred' – but she had always felt a pull towards the country. Wanting to spend more time with her family, she and Jonny swapped a cramped Victorian flat for the barns. 'When we first saw the place, it was derelict,' says Jane. 'I remember walking into the courtyard and it was just bare earth. But there was something magical

'The barn was literally an empty shell when we bought it, with absolutely nothing in it'

about it – these three buildings positioned around this piece of land – and I could see immediately what it could be like.'

The pair had renovated many a London flat, but a barn conversion is altogether something different. 'Barns are basically like boxes,' says Jane. 'If you start to cut them up, they lose their character.' Whereas space had been at a premium in the city, here she had vast expanses to fill, which demanded a very different way of thinking.

Jane meticulously restored and re-used much of the original features – the courtyard tiles are from the old stables, for example. Touches of agricultural heritage crop up all over the house, such as the alcoves in the walls, first used to hold candles for lighting. At the same time, the couple felt the need to rough up the rustic vibe – they're too young to go full-on country style. Aluminium was introduced as an antidote to an overdose of Cotswold stone and there are certain recurring design motifs – the louvred shutters, for instance.

When it came to the furnishings, Jane and Jonny brought in a mixture of inherited pieces, bespoke items, eBay finds and pieces sourced locally from their friend, who runs a fine-art gallery in a nearby village.

Now, after three solid years of refurbishment, Jane and Jonny are firmly embedded in the countryside. Should they ever need a dose of west London, Jane says she can nip to Daylesford Organic or the Soho Farmhouse (the new Soho House branch) nearby. So would she do the country move all over again? She doesn't hesitate. 'In a heartbeat.'

For interior styling by Jane Molly, contact thesoulstylist.com



LIVING ROOM

'This is just a fraction of Jonny's vinyl,' says Jane. 'It's stored all over the three barns. He constantly changes the display and at this time of year does a Christmas one.' Behind the doors is Jonny's dark room; above them on the mezzanine is his record deck.

GET THE LOOK The reclaimed doors are from Cox's Yard. The bespoke ladder is by Helios Fabrications.



KITCHEN

The bull's head came from an architectural salvage market. 'I love taxidermy,' says Jane, 'and I was after a bull's head for a long time. They're hard to find actually. I like to decorate it with a garland for Christmas.'


GET THE LOOK The blue steel cabinet is a bespoke design by Helios Fabrications. The stool was found in a market in Cheltenham. The rise-and-fall copper pendants are American and were bought on eBay.



KITCHEN ← ↑

The kitchen has a Gallic influence, says Jane, because of many childhood summers spent in the south of France. The cooker – a handmade La Cornue Château – was inherited from an aunt who was moving. 'They're worth 28 grand new, so it's not something to leave behind,' Jane says.

GET THE LOOK The cabinetry was designed by Jane and made by local builder Jake Miles. The floor is made of Polish Klinker bricks, sourced from Charles Howey. Jane made the magnetic knife board.



Home truths

CHRISTMAS CAKE OR MINCE PIES,

JANE? Definitely Christmas cake

– home-made by my neighbour.

FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS SONG? That's

one for Jonny. He'll probably play a lot

of old kitsch classics, like Val Doonican.

DO THE DOGS GET A PRESENT?

Absolutely! I discovered there are grannies knitting fantastic colourful home-made dog's jumpers on eBay. So forget some poncy place in Notting Hill, I'm getting one for a couple of quid.

THE BEST THING ABOUT A COUNTRY

CHRISTMAS? The smell of wood smoke

and pine, artisan food fairs and barns crammed full of friends and family.

AND YOUR WORST CHRISTMAS

DISASTER? Telling everyone the Christmas pudding was home-made. It's been enshrined in family history as Aldi-gate.

CHRISTMAS MEANS... Usually one domestic drama and a whole lotta love.

HALL

Jane and Jonny pondered for ages about what to do with this hallway leading to the bedroom. As there's a road outside, they thought long and hard about the windows. 'In the end, we had sliding doors made,' Jane explains. 'The louvred glazing provides privacy as well as light.'

GET THE LOOK The louvres were custom-made by Helios Fabrications.



MASTER BEDROOM ←

This part of the house was the old lambing shed and the bed is located where the animals' manger was. 'So yes, I do actually sleep in a manger,' says Jane.

GET THE LOOK The headboard is by The Headboard Workshop. The Mapplethorpe print was a vintage find. The pendant is by Industville. The mid-century chair, re-covered in blue leather, and the horns above the bed are from astleyhouse.com.

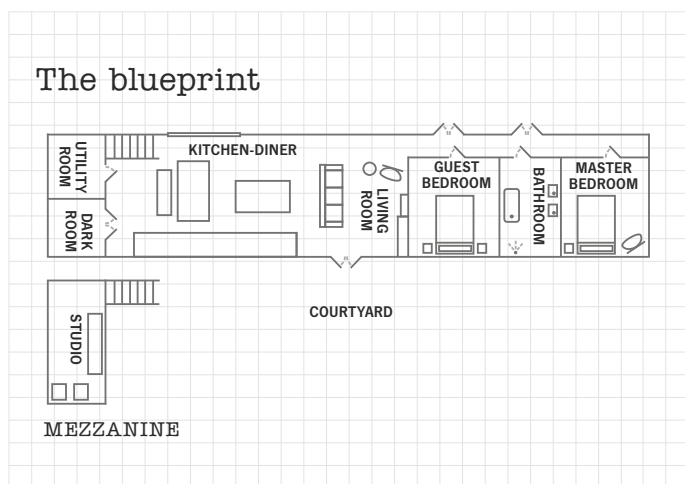
BATHROOM ↓

'I love aluminium and there are a lot of touches of that around,' says Jane. The louvered window by the bath was found in an old potato storage shed and restored.

GET THE LOOK This is a William Holland bath. The shower head is from Fired Earth.



The blueprint



VIEW TO COURTYARD

This opening was the original 'carthorse' door, driven through by horses delivering hay. 'It was really hard to get it glazed,' says Jane. 'In the end, the local steel works made the frames. Originally, I wanted them to slide back, but they were so heavy, it was impossible to achieve.'

GET THE LOOK The glazed steel doors were made by Helios Fabrications. The Kadai firepit is from Indigenous. The bench was bought at Bazar Antiques on London's Golborne Road. The honeycomb decorations are from Pearl & Earl. The snowflake decorations are from RE.



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IDEAS toSTEAL

Give rustic interiors a shot of urban style with raw materials and offbeat finds

KEY SURFACES



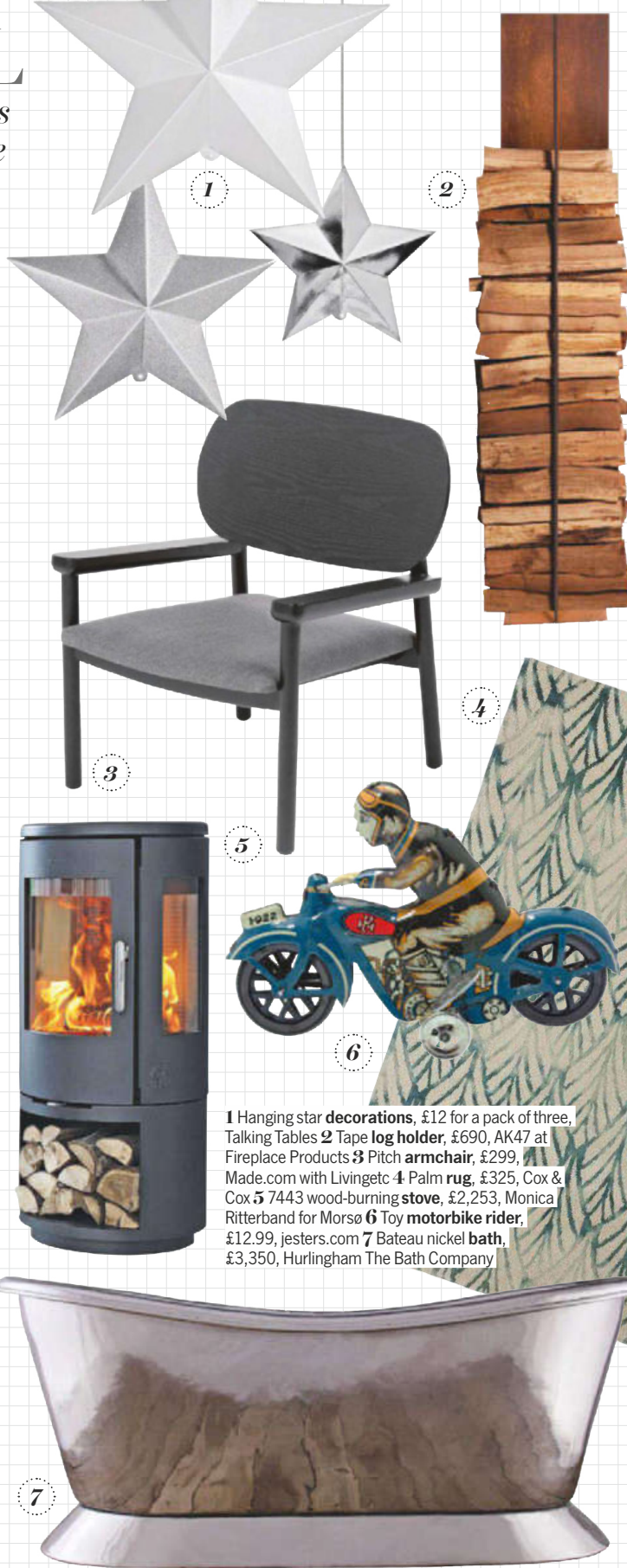
FROM LEFT Casa Ocre porcelain tiles, £44.89 per sq m, Mandarin Stone; London Dove matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5l, Designers Guild; and Woodland engineered-oak floorboards in Wild Mushroom, £69.95 per sq m, Fired Earth



KEY FEATURE Salvaged floorboards

Jane and Jonny are the ultimate upcyclers. To give their barn an authentically rough-luxe look, the couple salvaged much of the architectural details, ranging from the brick floor in the kitchen to the timber used to make the doors, walls and flooring in what was the original stables. 'These are old scaffolding boards,' Jane explains. 'We grouted between them to give them a more finished feel underfoot and this slightly limes them too.' To source similar scaffolding boards, from £4.50 each, try Hadley Reclaimed (hadley-reclaimed.co.uk).

KEY PRODUCTS



1 Hanging star decorations, £12 for a pack of three, Talking Tables **2** Tape log holder, £690, AK47 at Fireplace Products **3** Pitch armchair, £299, Made.com with Livingetc **4** Palm rug, £325, Cox & Cox **5** 7443 wood-burning stove, £2,253, Monica Ritterband for Morsø **6** Toy motorbike rider, £12.99, jesters.com **7** Bateau nickel bath, £3,350, Hurlingham The Bath Company

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Home profile

THE OWNERS James Knight, a lawyer, his wife Natalie, an ex-model, and their daughters Willow, seven, and Luella, four. Plus Poppy the Labradoodle, Bella the English Springer Spaniel and Obi-Wan Kenobi the cat.
THE PROPERTY A colonial-era mansion near Cape Town, South Africa. The ground floor includes a living room, dining room, kitchen/conservatory/breakfast room, TV room, bar, games room, kitchenette and two guest suites. Upstairs includes the family's bedroom suites.



GRAND
slam

Natalie and James took on the tricky challenge of renovating a vast, draughty mansion – and the couple emerged as the clear winners

Photography – Elsa Young
Production – Luanne Toms
Words – Kerry Fischer/Frank Features

← ENTRANCE HALL

'Before we moved in, you walked into the hall and there was a fusty reception area on your right and a dark lounge on your left,' says Natalie. 'And no light whatsoever.' Now, glazed doors open on both sides to allow sunshine to flood through the house.

GET THE LOOK The brass and glass light fitting is by Cape Town-based Morgan Associates.

DINING ROOM

'James was like an international mule, bringing over all manner of things from London for the house – rolls and rolls of this gold silk wallpaper was carted in his hand luggage,' Natalie recalls.

GET THE LOOK This Watered Silk in Gold wall covering is by Fabrics & Papers. The painting above the fireplace, called *Flight of the Golden Boys*, is by South African artist Michael Taylor. The chairs were bought from Provenance Auction House in Cape Town.



‘Our first Christmas here was literally a whirlwind,’

says Natalie Knight of the time she and her husband James moved into their Dutch colonial mansion along with their daughters Willow and Luella. So determined were the family to celebrate Christmas in their new Cape Town home that they arrived on 20 December when it was still without windows in the upstairs hall. ‘It was like an *Amityville* horror – we were up to our eyes in boxes at the windiest time of the year,’ Natalie recalls. ‘We had decorations flying all over the place and the girls kept asking why the doors were opening by themselves. But none of it mattered – we were *in!*’

The couple relocated to South Africa from London six years ago when Willow was a year old. ‘We were drawn to the idea of raising a family in a place with a more laid-back lifestyle,’ says Natalie, who herself had grown up in Cape Town. ‘We rented at first, because James still travels to London for work, but when Luella arrived three years later, we realised we’d be staying for the long haul.’ And so the search for a period property with a spacious garden began in earnest.

Natalie and James stumbled upon their 1903-built property two years ago, when it was a guesthouse with 13 bedrooms and 15 bathrooms. ‘It was totally terrifying! We had no idea how turn it into a family abode,’ says Natalie. But with the help of local architect Jan Desseyn, they came up with a plan to transform it into a grand family home. ‘Jan’s experience with heritage buildings was invaluable,’ says Natalie. ‘He had a relatively simple approach, which gave an air of sobriety to the project and we could finally see a way through it all.’

Strict planning regulations meant they couldn’t do much structurally, bar remove any new additions that fell foul of the building’s original architectural style. ‘Not that we had to change much – we loved the look of the house and tried to keep the intervention to a minimum,’ says James. ‘But what we did was open up a lot of the really boxy spaces that had been added over the years and gave the property a sense of flow with a wonderful connection to the garden.’

With such a large place to decorate, Natalie and James had to get creative with their finances and a lot of our things were sourced from auction houses, second-hand shops and even pawnshops. ‘I also found items on Pinterest and 1stdibs.com and had pieces custom-made to suit the house,’ says Natalie. In addition, local designer Danela Conti helped the duo edit and organise their eclectic accumulation of furniture, art and *objets*. ‘Her knowledge of fabrics, fittings and furnishings helped to reel me in when I went off on a tangent,’ says Natalie. ‘And that was often.’

As a result, this family home doesn’t feel contrived, but rather a happy mix of riotous colour, graphic monochromatic pattern and wonderful one-off decorative finds. ‘While we specifically wanted a heritage house, it certainly wasn’t our dream to live in a version of *Downton Abbey*,’ says Natalie, with a laugh. ‘We wanted a home imbued with humour and energy that would be as much fun for us as it would be for the girls.’ A year down the line, that’s exactly what they’ve got.

And now, with the windows all in place, the family are set for a draught-free, fun-filled Christmas.

See more of Jan Desseyn’s work at desseyn.co.za and Danela Conti’s interior designs at danelaconti.com

STAIRCASE

‘The previous design was quite poky and designer Danela’s idea to open up the space and put in a round stair at the bottom was totally transformative,’ says Natalie. ‘We also changed the balustrade and just made the whole thing a lot grander.’

GET THE LOOK The glass ball lights hanging above the staircase were designed by Guy Woods for local company Pieter van Dijk Studios.



BAR

'I've never been a fan of bars in houses,' says Natalie. 'But because there has always been one here, we kept it, but made it altogether more glamorous. It's a good spot for James to watch sport as there's a TV hidden behind a large mirror on the wall.'

GET THE LOOK The bar and cupboards were designed by local furniture maker Svencraft.

Home truths

NATALIE, WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS TRADITION?

We have something called 'Elf on the Shelf' – a little elf doll called Alfie. He arrives on 1 December to watch over the girls to see who is being naughty or nice and 'magically' moves each night to a new place. The girls try to behave when he's around and Willow believes in him to such an extent that she won't get undressed in his presence.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY MUSIC? Fat Freddy's Drop, a seven-piece band from New Zealand.

FAVOURITE FESTIVE TIPPLE? Champagne cocktail every time.

DOWNTOWN ABBEY OR GAME OF THRONES? *Downton Abbey*, because I love Maggie Smith's ascerbic wit.

CAPE TOWN BEACH SCENE OR LONDON PARTY CIRCUIT?

Cape Town – my liver is too brittle to withstand the party scene without being able to offset it with a day on the beach and ozone swim.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 18-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Don't sweat the small stuff. Travel as much as you can, experience as many different cultures as you're able – the differences teach us who we are.

BAR

To complement the period strap-work ceiling, the couple laid this intricate patterned floor, which also echoes the one in the adjoining kitchen.

GET THE LOOK The tiles throughout the house were sourced from Union Tiles in Cape Town.

KITCHEN →

'I didn't want a conventional scheme – they can be so boring and uninspiring,' says Natalie. 'I came across the kitchen that Kelly Wearstler did for Cameron Diaz's Manhattan apartment on Pinterest and decided there and then to make ours a teal-and-brass affair. There's a lot of brass in the property anyway, so it was also a nod towards the history of the house.'

GET THE LOOK The cabinetry was custom-made by Svecraft. This is a Rosières range cooker. The bar stools are from South African store Wunders. The chandeliers were found at Provenance Auction House.







TERRACE ↑

'It's a big house anyway and when we bought it, it was painted white, which really made it look three times bigger. Not to mention the glare,' Natalie recalls. Now neutral shades reign. 'Our neighbour much prefers it, because he no longer has to wear sunglasses when he's in his garden,' she adds.



LUELLA'S BEDROOM ↑

This fantastical space will fire the youngster's imagination for many years to come.

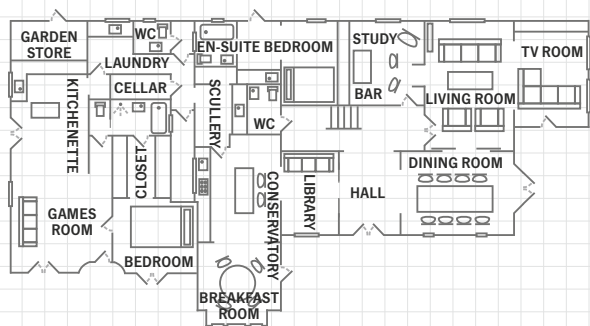
GET THE LOOK The chandelier was found at Provenance Auction House. The rug is from irugs.co.za. The curtains were made using a printed textile from South African company Galan Fabrics.

WILLOW'S BEDROOM →

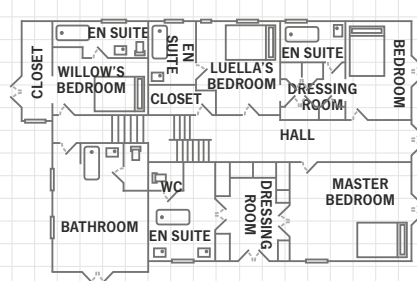
'Having lived in London for 15 years, we became dependent on colour and we've never really lost that,' says Natalie. 'So when it came to the girls' rooms, we wanted to create a sense of excitement and wonder that would grow with them.'

GET THE LOOK The Tiger screen-printed mural is by Spanish artist Catalina Estrada. The cheetah toy is by Melissa & Doug. The rug is another design found on irugs.co.za.

The blueprint



GROUND FLOOR



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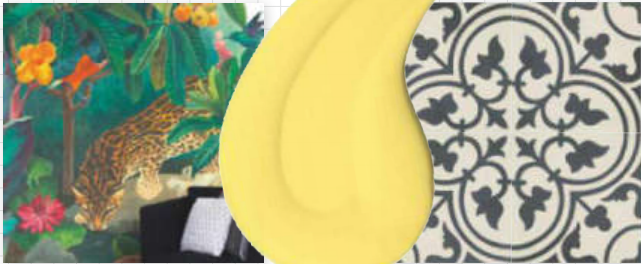




IDEAS toSTEAL

Mix vivid colours with tribal patterns and sleek designs for an updated colonial look

KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Jungle Lounge P031402-8 wall mural, £30 per sq m, L Holtzberg for Mr Perswall; Lemon Mivvi absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene; and Pont-Neufencaustic tiles, £224.70 per sq m, Toulouse collection at Fired Earth



KEY FEATURE Stained-pattern floor

A grand old house deserves a grand entrance. James and Natalie upped the glam ante by having their floorboards stained with a dramatic monochrome design. For a simple pattern, you could do the job yourself, but to achieve a similar geometric motif, call a pro – who can advise on which stains, opacity and finishes will work best with your scheme. Bespoke flooring expert Hitt Oak (hittoak.co.uk) says for staining a new floor, expect to pay approx £12 per sq m and for finishing, £14.40 per sq m, plus approx £30 per sq m to fit.

KEY PRODUCTS



1 Leopard statue, £329.99, Fabulous Furniture 2 Orlando chandelier, from £1,098, Holloways of Ludlow 3 Rio occasional chair, £395, Atkin and Thyme 4 Ponomma cushion, £25, Made.com with Livingetc 5 Chinese birdcage, £136.50, Orchid 6 Kambala rug, £75, Urban Outfitters 7 Marble oval coffee table, £499, West Elm



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*Terms and conditions This discount is available until 24 December 2015. Products are subject to availability. Graham and Green reserves the right to reject any application. The printed voucher must be handed over to store staff once redeemed. There is no cash alternative in whole or part. This offer is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. Postage and packaging are not included. Offer excludes Andrew Martin wallpaper, Kartell products, gift vouchers and delivery charges.

FRENCH *fancy*

Interior designer Laurence
has sprinkled gold dust on
her black and white loft-style
apartment to add a layer
of luxe and lavishness

Photography – Birgitta Wolfgang Drejer
Production – Julia Mincarelli/Sisters Agency
Words – Jenny Tucker



Home profile

THE OWNERS Interior designer Laurence Simoncini, her daughter Lea, 18, and son Ugo, 14.

THE PROPERTY A multi-level apartment in the 6th *arrondissement* of Paris. On the lower-ground floor, there's a washroom, sauna, massage room and gym. The ground floor comprises a kitchen-diner, formal dining area, living room, TV room, office, games room, home cinema and WC. On the first floor is Laurence's bedroom suite, a guest bedroom suite, WC and balcony. Ugo's suite is on the second floor and Lea's on the third.

LIVING ROOM

An expansive and intricate room incorporating all aspects of relaxed living, this is a great space for socialising. You can even take a nap.

GET THE LOOK The gold sofas are from Caravane, while the longer white sofa is from Casamania. The Le Gust chandelier above the oversized ottoman is by Kate Ellor. The wire Random Chair, opposite, is by Bertjan Pot. The DOB painting, also opposite, is by Takashi Murakami.





Christmas in Paris is always a stylish affair.

While the Eiffel Tower lights up to resemble a glorious oversized tree decoration and *les enfants* wait for *Père Noël* to arrive with gifts, locals hurry along the Boulevard Saint-Germain, ogling the designer stores and stopping off for a *chocolat chaud* in a misty-windowed café that looks like it's straight out of a Luc Besson movie. Interior designer Laurence Simoncini, a local to the area herself, lives in a beautiful apartment nearby. And, like the city, it's so well turned-out!

Bought two years ago, when the building was being used as offices for a fashion label, Laurence was attracted to the vast expanse of floor space and strong light that washed through it. But even so, it took a designer's beady eye to envision a family home. 'To be honest, although I knew the apartment could be something special, I wasn't impressed at first,' Laurence admits. 'I felt it had been built for a life that wasn't mine. There were small rooms and part of the ground floor was gaping open, revealing the basement – it felt like somewhere that had been through its fair share of crazy parties. Later, when I met the neighbours, they confirmed I was right.'

So Laurence embarked on a three-month project of intense planning to completely change the bones of the building. The main living space was reconfigured, windows were removed, doors stripped out, the kitchen reworked and the original oak flooring cleaned and restored. 'I wanted to keep an old Paris feel to the design, but I also wanted a New York loft style of living. It was important my home could sustain a mix of the traditional and modern.' Every element was meticulously considered, even down to the outside of the building, including the balcony, where she matched the same metal that was originally used on the roofs of the surrounding homes.

Harmony is a common denominator in Laurence's household. Choosing a basic palette of black, white and gold to link each room, she explains, 'It represents a chic ambience, but is also warm and moderate.' There are clever twists with her choice of furnishings in order to turn a cavernous space such as her living room into a collection of different chill-out areas that exist independently. 'I used various sofas, chairs and even a large custom-made ottoman in one corner to make the most of the way we all live today,' she says. 'So, if you want to read a book, talk on the telephone, go on your laptop, enjoy a glass of wine... you can find a different spot without ever leaving the room.'

Carefully allocated partitions, vintage cast-iron columns and even the four skylights, which pour in shafts of light from the terrace above, define certain sections too. It's like a meticulously planned obstacle course, inviting visitors to navigate their way around.

And dotted throughout is a diverse selection of art, much of it veering towards the comic. Laurence insists that a person's choice of art gives a home its unique character. From the ginormous Companion sculpture by Kaws (aka New Yorker Brian Donnelly) to the Takashi Murakami painting, there's definitely a tongue-in-cheek approach in evidence here.

With Christmas almost upon us, Laurence is looking forward to time with her family. 'Every year, we get the boxes of ornaments out of the closet and carefully unwrap them,' she reveals. 'It's such a ritual opening these – some of the decorations are two generations old. For me and the kids, putting them on the tree signifies that our festivities have really started.'

She plans to have her family gathered for Christmas lunch around the dining table that's almost the size of a jetty. It's a very long table, with five metres of white Corian jutting into the living area, while a further five metres spreads into the kitchen on the other side of the wall. Clever!

'I adore my home,' says Laurence. 'I was lucky to be able to take a shell and design it to my needs. I planned carefully, I chose materials that I love – this was a dream come true for me. Now I never want to leave. I rush to get in the door and once I'm here, I'm so content.' Just as well *Père Noël* makes home deliveries then.

Check out Laurence's work at laurencesimoncini.com



◀ LIVING ROOM

Old and new reside harmoniously in this space. Modern furniture and quirky art have been juxtaposed with original flooring and vintage cast-iron columns and are illuminated by natural light from the ceiling's light wells.

GET THE LOOK This is a limited-edition *Dissected Companion* sculpture by New York designer Kaws. Wood furniture, such as the small stools and the coffee table, keep the space organic.

TV ROOM

With its inky walls and come-hither sofa, this cosy space is perfect for hibernating in front of a festive movie.

GET THE LOOK The grey velvet sofa is from *Caravane*. The Mickey Mouse painting is by New Yorker Joyce Pensato and the Urchin pouffe is by Dutch designer Christien Meindertsma.



‘Inspiration comes from my mind. I think about what I want and there it is!’



DINING ROOM ↑

The open-plan apartment offers space for a formal dining area, which spills on to the kitchen and living area, creating a seamless look.

GET THE LOOK The five-metre dining table was specially made in white Corian. This is a collection of Nobody chairs by Komplot Design for Hay.

KITCHEN-DINER → →

Separated into two halves – dark and light – the kitchen takes a bold stance. Persil white at one end and shimmering moodily at the other, it still blends into one striking result.

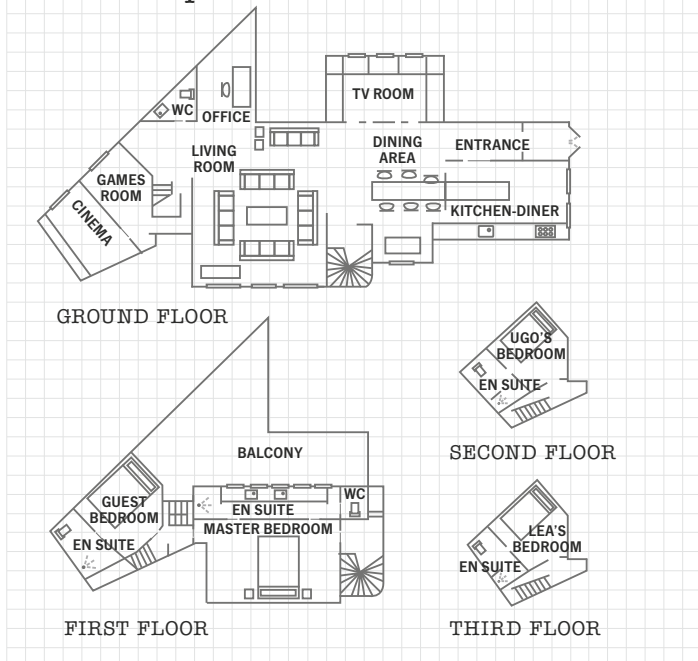
GET THE LOOK Corian work surfaces in black and white have been used throughout and for the kitchen table. The units are from Falcon Kitchens. The Pulp lamp shade is by Dutch designer Jo Meesters, while the dining chairs are from Ikea and covered in charcoal hemp. The gold glass splashback tiles are from Emery & Cie.







The blueprint



MASTER EN SUITE

Although simple in concept, this complete stretch of marble, incorporating the basin units and covering the length of one wall, is a distinctive design. A glass partition between the bedroom and bathroom creates the illusion of space.

GET THE LOOK The bespoke marble unit and shower area were specially commissioned to fit the space. Interior design specialist Carden Cunietti can create something similar.

Home truths

HOW DO YOU KEEP WARM ON A WINTER'S DAY? I build a huge open fire and get as close as I can.

WHAT WILL BE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST? I've got my eye on a gorgeous Mathias Kiss mirror.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT PARIS IN THE WINTER? The trees at the Jardin du Luxembourg.

Especially beautiful now.

WHAT CHRISTMAS SMELL

MAKES YOU HAPPY? Pine. It's my absolute favourite.

HOW DO YOU DECORATE YOUR CHRISTMAS HOME? A sprinkle of gold and just a few candles.

WHAT HAVE YOU LOVED ABOUT 2015? My apartment. It makes me very happy.



See more great houses
at [housetohome.co.uk/
house-tours](http://housetohome.co.uk/house-tours)

MASTER BEDROOM

'My home is a wonderful retreat for me. I love being here,' says Laurence. And nowhere reflects the emphasis on comfort and tranquillity more than her bedroom. A warm wood floor, alluring bed and elegant accessories define the mood.

GET THE LOOK Laurence's bedhead is from Caravane. The bedding is from a selection at Lit Society. The Döden pendants are by Swedish-based design company Tvåfota. The Screw table is by Tom Dixon.

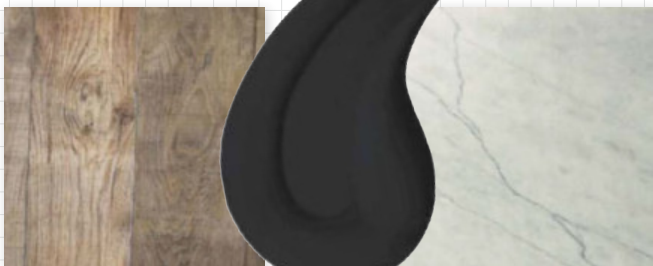




IDEAS toSTEAL

Help zone a large living space with unusual furniture and eye-catching art

KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Beauvais oak floorboards, £180 per sq m, Lassco; Basalt absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5l, Little Greene; and Bridgehampton marble wall/ floor tile, £104.88 per sq m, Fired Earth



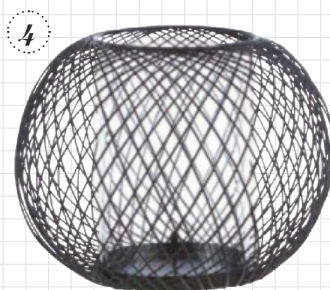
KEY FEATURE Cast-iron columns

Although finished in contemporary style, Laurence's Parisian apartment still betrays its industrial origins, particularly the raw-timber floor and the cast-iron columns that support the upper levels of the building. Deliberately kept in distressed condition, the metal supports add a rough-luxe touch to the space's ultra-chic aesthetic. To source similar architectural salvage in the UK, visit specialist suppliers such as Wells Reclamation (wellsreclamation.com) – expect to pay from £300 for a pair of Victorian designs – or check out eBay.

KEY PRODUCTS



1 Drum iron coffee table, £350, Abigail Ahern **2** Pulp II papier-mâché pendant, £395, Folklore **3** Big Gee floor lamp, £175, Loaf **4** Ball candleholder, £28, Betty Jackson. Black for Debenhams **5** Gold bunny, £100, Pure Evil for Royal Doulton **6** Midas Touch cowhide rug in Gold, £845, The French Bedroom Company **7** Holly velvet sofa, £950, sofa.com



Research Jo Bailey Photography (cast-iron columns) Brigitta Wolfgang Dreier. (paint swatch) Piveleys

KITCHEN BLISS
Noche Travertine with
Concrete Pale stripping,
from £37.50 per sq m,
Amtico Spacia



GROUND FORCE

For statement flooring that's durable, reasonably priced *and* looks great, Amtico's Spacia collection ticks every box

Creating a great room scheme starts at floor level and builds from the ground up. Sourcing something that's stylish, affordable and also hard-wearing enough to provide you with years of sterling service isn't as tricky as it sounds.

Step forward Amtico, whose Spacia collection has been pre-designed to work in every room of the house. Water-resistant and easy to maintain, it's ideal for use in bathrooms and kitchens; warm underfoot and compatible with underfloor heating, it also works well in bedrooms and hallways.

Stylistically, you're spoilt for choice, with an extensive range of organically inspired design options, from slate to travertine, walnut to zinc, all of which will suit your home, whether your look is

contemporary, classic, industrial or rustic. What's more, with a host of contrasting stripping options, the potential to create something unique from the range is endless. Priced from £37.50 per sq m, the Spacia collection has a 0.55mm wear layer and comes with a 25-year warranty, so you can rest assured that it will be able to take all the knocks you throw at it and still look as good as the day you had it fitted. Plus, all Amtico products are made in Britain, giving you confidence in their quality and reliability.

Can't make up your mind which to choose? To help you decide, check out the Amtico website, where you can browse all the various product options and styles and start planning how you'll put them together to create your dream look. Things are looking cool, down on the floor...

Uniquely **amtico**

*To find out more about the Amtico Spacia collection, order a brochure or request samples, call 0121 222 1549. To locate your nearest Amtico retailer, visit **amtico.com***





Never-ending STORY...

It may look perfectly complete, but Leila and Niels' fabulous family home is always evolving to make way for more exciting artwork and unusual finds

Photography – Paul Craig Production – Mary Weaver Words – Amelia Thorpe

Home profile

THE OWNERS Leila Brink, who runs Moroccan rug company Blue GiGi, her partner Niels van Beusichem, an investment banker, and their children Don, ten, Cassius, eight, and Pippa, six, plus Dante the cat.
THE PROPERTY A Victorian terrace in south London. There's a kitchen-diner on the lower-ground floor and a double reception/living room on the ground floor. The master suite is on the first floor, while the guest room, Pippa's bedroom, WC and family bathroom are on the second. The boys' bedroom is on the top floor.

← LIVING ROOM →

Leila and Niels made art the focal point in this space. 'We like to visit galleries and fairs when we have time,' says Leila. The double doors, *opposite*, allow the light to flow into the entrance hall.

GET THE LOOK The Harland Miller Penguin Plays print is from *Other Criteria*. Leila re-covered the vintage chair in *Designers Guild* fabrics. The Beni Ouarain rug is from Blue GiGi. Opposite: the double doors are by D&R Design; the bust is by Jonathan Adler; and the Owl side table is by Graham and Green.



Christmas comes early in



LIVING ROOM ↑

Unglazed tiles clad the wall – their warm, handmade finish contrasts with the industrial feel of the galvanised steel fireplace surround and concrete bench.

GET THE LOOK

These are the Zelliges wall tiles by Emery & Cie. The floor lamp is from Mint and the Water Flora vase is from Anthropologie. The polished concrete bench was crafted by Lazenby.

Although it was structurally sound, there was work to be done to remove what Leila describes as his 'unusual creative twists', including the mint-green door frames. While they set about painting the walls white throughout the house, the pair also built an extension to enlarge the rear of the lower-ground floor to make a spacious kitchen-diner with a TV area, opening on to the garden. They also added a floor-to-ceiling window to the ground-floor living room to introduce more light and installed a new kitchen and new bathrooms.

'We did things slowly, starting with a blank canvas of white,' says Leila. 'Often, I put in some colour and then ended up taking it away, because I like the calm that white creates.' She says the house combines her love of the cool hue and vintage furniture, particularly mid-century pieces sourced from 1stdibs, with Niels' taste for contemporary minimalism and their shared passion for art. 'It isn't a fully matching house,' says Leila. 'It's simply a mix of things we like, put together at different times.'

Her taste for quiet beauty, the old and the unusual is evident at every turn. So where does Leila's design eye come from? Not from any formal training – her degree in business economics led to a career in marketing – but possibly from her parents, it seems. 'My father is an artist, my mother worked in a photographic studio and I was brought up in a world in which surroundings are important,' she says. 'Rather than start with a big design plan, my approach is to let things evolve organically. That way, I feel more at ease with things I like around me.'

Her taste for the unusual extends to the antique Moroccan rugs, scattered throughout the house and the focus of her business Blue GiGi. 'Each rug is unique and tells its own story,' says Leila, as she strokes the thick wool of a traditional Beni Ouarain design and shows off colourful *boucharouites*, made from torn clothing, including vintage *djellabas* (Arabic robes). 'The collection is always changing and that's important. I like the idea of individuality in my business, just as I do in my home.'

See more of Leila's rugs at bluegigi.com

Leila Brink and Niels van Beusichem's London home. Both born and raised in the Netherlands, they like to enjoy the Dutch traditions with their three young children, starting with *Sinterklaas* – Saint Nicholas' Day – on 5 December. 'The children put their shoes in front of the chimney, together with a glass of beer for *Sinterklaas* and some carrots for his horse,' says Leila. 'The next morning, they come down to find *pepernoten* [spicy] biscuits, marzipan sweets and their initials in chocolate in their shoes.'

Because Saint Nicholas traditionally arrives in the Netherlands a couple of weeks before 5 December, Leila says it's the perfect excuse to start dusting the house with fake snow and stringing coloured lights and the children's handmade decorations around the place before November is really over. This year, the family is planning a 'giant sleepover' for Christmas with all their extended family arriving from Holland. 'This is our first proper home,' says Leila, 'so it will be wonderful to have everyone here to share it together.'

Although the couple moved to London 12 years ago, they chose to rent properties (there have been four) before deciding to buy this house. 'People tend to buy later in the Netherlands,' explains Leila. 'Plus, we could never quite get our heads around the prices here – we kept comparing them to what we could get in Holland for the same amount of money, so we just put off making the big jump.'

But, finally, jump they did. 'We love London and want to stay here, so we felt it was time to put down roots and make our own home,' continues Leila. They settled on a family-size, five-storey home in leafy south London, thanks to its proximity to green spaces and the children's schools. 'The house had been renovated by a developer with a taste for pastel shades,' says Leila.

LIVING ROOM

To add character and more light to the space, the couple replaced the small sash window at the rear with a floor-to-ceiling design. They had wanted a steel frame, but local conservation rules prevented them from installing one, so they cleverly had it made in painted timber instead.

GET THE LOOK The sofa is from Designers Guild. This is the Jolly Supplement side table by Paolo Rizzatto for Kartell at Made in Design. The wicker chair is a vintage find. The Tulip coffee tables are by Eero Saarinen for Knoll and the tall white Legume vase is from Jonathan Adler. This is the Sellarsbrook Yellow rug by Suzanne Sharp for The Rug Company.



*'We like the clarity and simplicity
of mid-century design'*



KITCHEN

The breakfast table catches the morning sun, making it Leila's favourite place to work on her laptop. The bench doubles as storage; the polished concrete floor was chosen for its utilitarian beauty.

GET THE LOOK The Bulthaup Burnt Oak island with Carrara marble top is from Kitchen Architecture. The bench was made by a local joiner with cushions covered in fabric by Designers Guild. This is the Trisse table by Nanna Ditzel at Sigmar London.



HALLWAY ←

In a house of five, life is busy. 'I wanted the hall to create an immediate sense of calm when we come home,' says Leila. 'I like the contrast of the black lines on the white walls and the way some of the lines lead you through to the garden.'

GET THE LOOK The walls are painted in Strong White emulsion with the dado and picture rails picked out in Railings eggshell, both by Farrow & Ball.

MASTER BEDROOM ↓

Wardrobes from Ikea are given a stylish makeover with designer wallpaper and vintage leather car-door pulls, found by Leila on eBay.

GET THE LOOK For details of the Brooklyn Tin Tiles wallpaper, see Ideas to Steal. The day bed is by Rune Bruun Johansen at The Apartment.



Home truths

WHAT'S ON THE FESTIVE MENU

THIS YEAR, LEILA? We tend to eat game on Christmas Day in the Netherlands, but this year, I'm going to cook a big turkey. I'm worried that it will be dry, so I'll do lots of sausages on the side.

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR YOU?

The whole experience, including going to the traditional panto with the children and seeing all the pretty lights in London. And the days around Christmas are so lovely and free – everyone seems to slow down, so we actually spend time with each other without all the distractions of a normal day.

ON YOUR BUYING TRIPS TO MARRAKECH, WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR FREE TIME? I love the Majorelle Garden, which used to belong to Yves Saint-Laurent. It's

filled with plants and is so colourful and bright that the experience is always uplifting
DUTCH VS ENGLISH? I like to read in Dutch, because it helps me stay in touch with my first language.
YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE? Ile de Ré in France – I've been going there for holidays since I was a child. Petit Bec is my favourite beach.
ANY INDULGENCES? Chocolate, definitely. It has to be dark.

MASTER EN SUITE

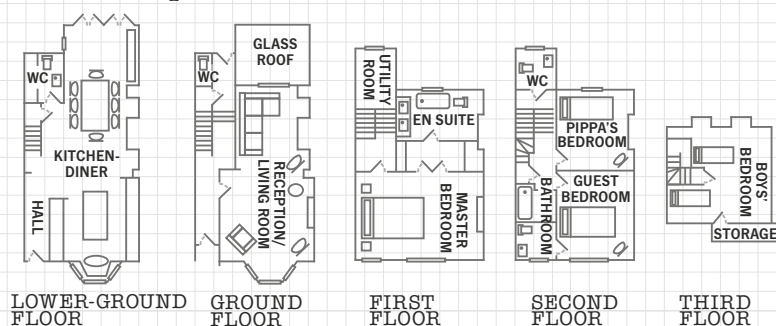
Leila and Niels converted the former en-suite bathroom and separate dressing room into one space.

A large walk-in shower is located behind the dividing wall.

GET THE LOOK The taps are by Lefroy Brooks. The Zelliges wall tiles are from Emery & Cie and In Situ. The wall is painted in Squid Ink emulsion by Paint Library.



The blueprint



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at housetohome.co.uk/house-tours

FOR CONTACTS see lifestyleetc.co.uk/stockists



MASTER BEDROOM

The couple stripped back the wall and painted it white to create a tranquil mood. They designed the oversized headboard and had it made by a local upholsterer.

GET THE LOOK The artwork is by German artist Christiane Richter at Priveekollektie. This is the Componibili Storage 3 unit by Anna Castelli Ferrieri for Kartell at Made in Design. The pendant is from Retrouvius and the pillowcases are from The Linen Works. The cushion is by Jonathan Adler.



IDEAS toSTEAL

Mix up your textures, surfaces and pops of colour to punctuate an all-white scheme

KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Oak Brendon White Brushed **flooring**, £94.62 per sq m, Ecora; Eaton Square **marble matt emulsion**, £38 for 2.5l, Mylands of London; and Tuscan Bleu gloss **tiles** in Turquoise, £30 per sq m, Mandarin Stone



KEY FEATURE Customised wardrobes

Bespoke storage is something we all dream about, but sometimes the budget just won't allow. However, you can cheat pretty easily! One way is to do what Leila cleverly did – she bought her wardrobes from Ikea and then customised them by covering them with wallpaper and switching the original handles for car straps she found on eBay. The great thing about the *trompe l'oeil* Brooklyn Tin Tiles wallpaper, *above*, £219 per 10m roll, from Rockett St George (rockettstgeorge.co.uk), is that it also gives the space subtle depth and character.

KEY PRODUCTS



1

1 Penguin Parade photographic **print**, from £250, Mark Vessey 2 Flint **floor lamp**, £125, BHS 3 Bergerac king-size **bed**, £799 (mattress not included), Made.com with Livingetc 4 Utopia owl **vase**, £158, Jonathan Adler 5 Go Undercover **blanket**, £75, House of Rym at Amara 6 Torres kilim **rug**, £749, West Elm 7 Constantin **armchair**, £495, Graham and Green



2



3

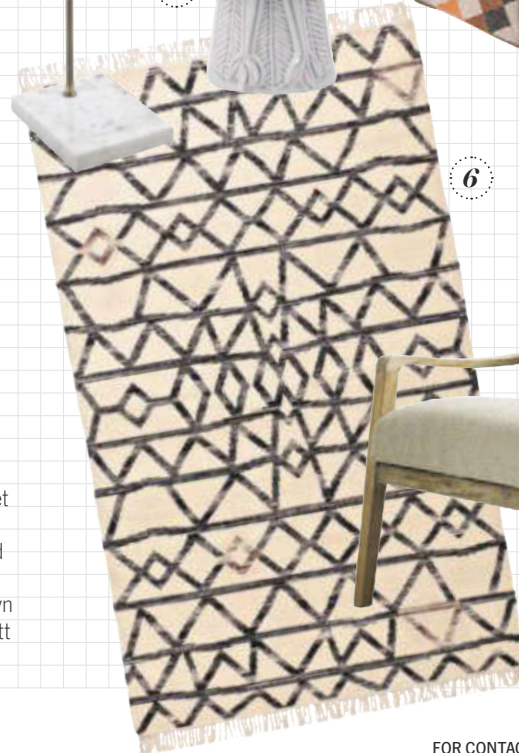


4

5



6



7





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more stylish is served.

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**Bay Leather
Republic**
COLLECTION

HARVEYS



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HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Give your space a shot of festive elegance with furniture and homeware, plus brilliant trend-driven decorations, from Next Home – your one-stop style shop

LIVINGetc PROMOTION

Christmas is the time of year when your home is most on show, as a venue for entertaining friends and family. So it's essential to dress your space with beautiful furniture and stylish decorations.

Next Home has everything you need to make your home sparkle, from sofas to baubles, dining tables to fairy lights – making it your one-stop shop for gorgeous interiors and on-trend Christmas decorations. This year's key festive trends are all about embracing luxury with rich metallics providing the glamour – while a classic French-style silhouette on key pieces adds plenty of elegance.

With more than 30 styles of sofa and armchair available in over 95 fabrics and 19 leathers, you can select your ideal fabric and colour, with certain items able to be delivered to your door and set up within four working days (made-to-order sofas take a fraction longer to ensure ultimate craftsmanship). If you're not sure which fabric to choose for your sofa or armchair, take advantage of Next Home's free swatch service by ordering up to nine free swatches delivered direct to your door.

Whether investing in furniture for a lifetime or decorative details to stay on trend for Christmas, look no further than Next Home.



↑ MANTEL STYLE Decanter light, £45; snowflake tea-light holders, £5; Hex mirror, £175; Christmas cards, £4 for a pack of 20; perfume bottle ornament, £10; sand timer, £16; glass tree, £10; and copper baubles, from £2.50 each, all Next Home

← MODERN LUXE 7-ft Christmas tree, £80; selected baubles, from £2.50 each; presents wrapped in copper wrapping, £6.50 for a 6m pack; copper wreath, £22; Gosford sofa in Mid Silver, £999; round cushion, from £6; diamond band cushion, £14; embellished cushion, £16; rug, from £45; coffee table, £199; tray, £12; champagne saucers, £24 for a set of four; diamanté stag, £16; tea-light holders, £12 for a set of three; candelabra, £16; Zhara floor lamp, £90; Sherlock armchair in Light Silver, £525; and Anastasia pendant, £170, all Next Home



TOP TABLE Globe pendants, £20 each; Amore six-seater dining table, £450; Amore dining chairs, £325 per pair; champagne bucket, £12; decanter, £20; water jug, £10; 12-piece dinner set, £45; 16-piece copper cutlery set, £32; placemats, £20 per pair; woven placemats, £8 for an eight-piece mat and coaster set; wine glasses, £24 for a set of four; champagne saucer, £24 for a set of four; crackers, £12 for a box of 12; and bauble garland, £25, all Next Home

MAGIC SETTING 12-piece dinner set, £45; 16-piece copper cutlery set, £32; wine glass, £24 for a set of four; champagne saucer, £24 for a set of four; woven placemats, £8 for an eight-piece mat and coaster set; cracker, £12 for a box of 12; bauble garland, £25; and copper bauble, £2.50, all Next Home →



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Raffello High-Gloss Red and White Slab kitchen, £1,763 for eight units*, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



Stonefield Stone Classic-style kitchen, £994 for eight units*, B&Q



COOKE
& LEWIS



A DREAM KITCHEN

From choosing the right look to deciding on a worktop and ensuring you've got the best appliances, designing your new kitchen takes careful planning. Fortunately, B&Q has everything you need to get it right

Brookfield Textured Mussel-style Shaker kitchen, £1,065 for eight units*, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



Chesterton Solid Oak Classic kitchen, £1,723 for eight units*, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



1

CHOOSE YOUR LOOK

Decide whether you want an industrial vibe, a touch of country rustic or a timelessly classic look, then everything else will fall into place

fyi

B&Q has a range of flexible finance options available, ensuring you can have the kitchen you want, when you want, 365 days a year. diy.com/diy/financial-services/

Light industrial

THE IDEA Take inspiration from restaurants with a practical look that is sturdy, durable and timelessly stylish. Hallmarks of the look include use of hard-working metals, a dark-neutrals palette (grey, pewter and even black) and honest no-nonsense appliances. An ideal design for busy families, as it can take the knocks, it gives a relaxed urban vibe to any kind of property.

GET THE LOOK This is the new **Raffello High Gloss Anthracite Slab** kitchen from B&Q's Cooke & Lewis range, with cabinets made in Devon and Cooke & Lewis doors made in Italy using the latest production technology and hand-selected materials. From £1,763 for eight units*.



Classic glamour

THE IDEA Introduce rich colours and textures to achieve a cooking space that is worth showing off. Painted units with a rich wood grain, stylish handles and chic tiles all contribute to a more luxe aesthetic than traditionally found in a kitchen. And why not add a chandelier or two, just to up the style ante?

GET THE LOOK This is B&Q's **Carisbrooke Taupe** kitchen from the Cooke & Lewis range. With very on-trend curves, rich detailing and a soft-open grained finish, it creates a high-end look that screams sophisticated style. From £2,132 for eight units*.



Shaker elegance

THE IDEA Simplicity is the key to the distinctive Shaker style, a look that introduces a low-key elegance to both period and country properties. However, it can also give a modern twist to an urban space by teaming the classic cabinets with different handles or working the look in a striking colour palette, used either all over or as an accent.

GET THE LOOK This is B&Q's **Westleigh Ivory-style Shaker** kitchen. The work surface and island add a note of warmth and keep things from getting too clinical. From £745 for eight units*.



Urban chic

THE IDEA White gloss has been the defining kitchen trend of the past few decades, undoubtedly because it is clean, modern, looks great and is easy to maintain. And it's also extremely versatile. Pair white gloss with a coloured splashback, accessorise with wood, concrete-style or even Gemstone, made with 85 per cent recycled materials, to deliver a completely different mood.

GET THE LOOK This is B&Q's **Marletti White Gloss with Integrated Handles** kitchen, which blends timelessly for a show-stopping look that never goes out of date. From £1,046 for eight units*.



Modern country

THE IDEA Rich wood effect and sophisticated shots of colour all provide the ideal ingredients for a cooking zone that also functions as the true heart of the home. Perfect for rambling farmhouses, cosy cottages or barn conversions alike, choose British-made cabinets and even if you don't have a huge refectory table and a view of rambling fields, an island or breakfast bar can still provide a great communal focus for friends and family.

GET THE LOOK This is B&Q's **Chilton Beech-style** kitchen with great storage options and some smart cabinet detailing. From £952 for eight units*.

2

SELECT APPLIANCES

B&Q's appliances use the latest technology to make your life easier and ensure you're getting the best value for money



B&Q's range of **hobs** come in easy-to-use **gas**, easy-to-clean **gas on glass**, minimalist **ceramic**, or hi-tech **induction** options.



A pop-up **down-draft hood** is a great solution if you want a minimalist look. It works particularly well on an island unit.

Electrical appliances will complement and facilitate the role you want your kitchen to play, so it's important to choose wisely to ensure your needs are covered. B&Q's range of appliances use the latest technology available to ensure they are more economical and energy efficient. Choose your oven and hob according to your style of cooking and the needs of your family. If you're an entertainer, you'll want something with lots of functions and a good capacity. Range cookers tend to look better in a country-style kitchen, while sleek stainless-steel eye-level ovens suit a more contemporary space. Next, think about extraction and fridges to coordinate, choosing to make a style statement or have something integrated. Added extras, such as waste-disposal units, warming drawers, wine coolers and microwave ovens can also make life easier in a hard-working kitchen.



B&Q has a range of gas and electric multi-functional **built-in eye-level ovens** and **warming trays** offering a streamlined look.



Good extraction is essential, particularly in today's open-plan homes. B&Q has a full range of **standard** and **designer hoods**.



With capacity for up to 18 bottles, a **wine cooler** is a useful addition to any kitchen and is especially handy when entertaining.

3

CHOOSE YOUR WORKTOP

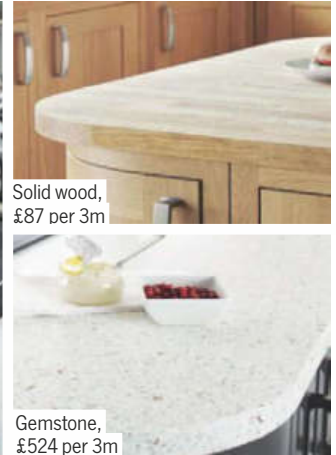
Select a surface that's both functional, beautiful, durable and complements your look



Bespoke quartz, made to order



Laminate, from £40 per 3m



Solid wood, £87 per 3m

Gemstone, £524 per 3m

SOLID WOOD Both natural and warming, wooden worktops give a handcrafted feel to any kitchen. They do require a little maintenance, however with regular oiling, they age beautifully. Choose between pale birch, beech and oak, or the darker walnut and wenge.

LAMINATE Modern laminates come in a new high-definition textured range, from granite to stone effect and even textured wood. Affordable, flexible and easy to fit, they are a brilliant choice for a busy family kitchen. Available in various thicknesses and both rounded and square-edged finishes.

EARTHSTONE A revolutionary solid surface that gives the look of bespoke, with the convenience of coming in pre-cut lengths and shapes, including sinks and splashbacks. Hard-working and durable, a bevel edge gives a softer finish.

GEMSTONE Made from 85 per cent recycled crushed materials including glass, shell and mirror, this composite surface is as strong as it is beautiful

and comes in a range of neutral shades with a 10-year product guarantee.

QUARTZ A man-made alternative to granite, but with some bolder colours, such as red or blue, for those wanting to make a style statement.

GRANITE The bespoke option, which can be customised to offer a seamless look and shaped. As it's a natural material, colours and patterns vary making it ideal for anyone wanting a completely unique surface.

SOLID SURFACE Another bespoke option, which combines the natural beauty and durability of stone with the consistency of an engineered surface. Great for shaping into curves and unusual corners. Like Granite and Quartz, this can be made-to-measure, with square-edge, bullnose and double radius profiles, for that bespoke finish.

EDGE OPTIONS B&Q offers the choice between a squared-off edge, for a sharp, sleek feel, or a softer, rounded finish if you prefer a smoother look.

4

PLAN STORAGE SOLUTIONS

A place for everything and everything in its place

Three-drawer pan base unit, £224



You'd be surprised how extra room can be created with the right kind of planning in even the smallest space. When choosing a kitchen from B&Q, be sure to make the most of the huge selection of space-saving devices in the range to create a more efficient storage space. From extra-wide saucepan drawers, corner carousel units, pull-out larders, wine racks and pull-down cutlery trays, you can rest assured that whatever space you have won't be wasted.



Pull-out base storage unit, £62

SPACE AGE No more scrabbling about with B&Q's innovative drawer storage



Solid-beech cutlery pull down, £68

5

SINKS, SPLASHBACKS AND TAPS

Just because they have a job to do doesn't mean they can't be beautiful

Make a splashback statement in acrylic, from £128



Pull-out taps, from £57; and Springneck, taps, from £78, are stylish and practical



The on-trend Nova-6U composite sink in Anthracite, £305



Glass splashbacks come in 14 different colour options – from frosted to hot pink, from £40

SINKS Stainless steel is easy to maintain and is chip- and crack-resistant. Composite is highly scratch-resistant and heat-resistant. Choose a ceramic option if you like a more traditional look. With a beautifully silky finish, it's easy to look after. Undermounted options are worth considering if you've chosen a statement worktop and want to keep a seamless look, while toughened glass is as stylish as it is long-lasting.

SPLASHBACKS B&Q has splashback panels that can be used to coordinate with the rest of your design. In either glass, acrylic or metal, all are extremely easy to fit and come in a range of colours that provide a unique look.

TOP TAPS Faucets also come in a wide variety of styles. Pillar taps are ideal if you are upgrading, as they work with existing worktops with pre-drilled holes. Monobloc styles are by far the most popular, coming in a variety of designs to suit every kitchen look. For a contemporary vibe, a side-lever option that has one single handle to operate both the flow of water and its temperature is a great choice. For something that makes a real statement, why not consider a pull-out or springneck number, which has the look of a chef's kitchen?



New this season, B&Q's Cooke & Lewis side-lever Clyro tap, £97, has a dual-function spray head and aerated stream spout. Great quality, beautifully designed

6

FINISHING TOUCHES

Flooring, lighting, handles and tiles

Chilton White Country-style kitchen, from £729 for eight units*, B&Q



Flooring & Tiles

The kitchen is such a high-traffic area, it needs a floor capable of taking the knocks. B&Q caters for all budgets and needs and offers a choice of splash-proof laminate flooring in a wide variety of finishes with an easy-to-lay click fitting system. Alternatively, the waterproof vinyl range, Luxury Vinyl Click, starts at £18 per sq m. In terms of tiles, choose between concrete-effect options, which have an ultra-contemporary industrial look, or something more classic, such as porcelain floor tiles and ceramic wall tiles, which come in great colours and effects.



Stone-effect wall tiles achieve a naturally sophisticated look



B&Q's ceramic wall and floor tiles come in an array of pastel shades. The brick profile creates a variety of shapes. Mix and match, or team with contrasting grout



Handles

Small but very important, your choice of handle really affects the look of your kitchen. White units take on a country vibe with cup handles, a contemporary look with brushed-steel bridges or a Shaker vibe with wooden knobs, from £4 each. With more than 96 options to choose from (ten of them new), B&Q spoils you with choice.

Lighting

From under-cabinet downlighters to statement pendants



BEST FOR: kitchen-diners
Pendant lights work well hung in trios over breakfast bars, tables or counter tops. *Colours Paynton fisherman's light shade, £32*



BEST FOR: under cabinets
Highlight those new cabinets with **under-cabinet downlighters**. *IT Kitchens mains-powered cabinet light, £44 for a pack of three*



BEST FOR: highlighting
Strip lighting is an easy new way to make a feature of cabinetry. *Masterlight LED striplight kit, £15 for a pack of three*



Carisbrooke Taupe Framed kitchen with oak-framed top units, from £2,253 for eight units*, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q

7

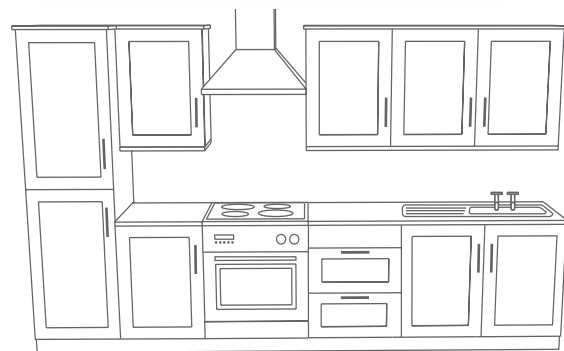
CONSULT THE EXPERTS

Of course, deciding on a look, picking appliances and fittings and choosing elegant finishing touches is the fun part. The next step is to make your dream kitchen a reality by ensuring you have a great design that makes the most of your space.

That's where B&Q comes into its own. Selected stores have design consultants who can help with planning and offer advice on things like plumbing, fitting and building regulations. They'll also give you access to **B&Q Spaces**, a unique interactive design tool that you can use as you embark on your project, planning your layout and keeping track of your costs as you move along the entire process. Visit diy.com/diy/design_consultation for details.

Once everything's in place and you're ready to place your order, take advantage of **B&Q's Homefit** service, which sources approved *Which?* Trusted Traders who'll take care of installation, ensuring you get a professional fit. With more than 15 years experience, they also offer a five-year workmanship guarantee.

Whether you're just seeking inspiration, need design advice or are looking for the full service, you can be confident you're in safe hands at B&Q.



HOW TO PRICE YOUR DREAM KITCHEN

***Example 8-cabinet kitchen includes:** 1 x 1000mm base unit; 1 x 500mm multi-drawer base unit; 1 x 600mm build-under oven housing unit; 1 x 500mm base unit; 1 x 600mm larder unit; 2 x 500mm wall units and 1 x 1000 wall unit; end panels, 3m laminate worktop, cornice; pelmet, plinth and handles. Does not include appliances, sink and taps.

To start the journey to your dream kitchen, discover the full range of brilliantly designed kitchens, at prices to suit every budget, by logging on to diy.com/rooms/kitchen/fitted-kitchens/DIY998389



DESIGN

Inspiration . Planning . Projects . People . Shopping



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Fab gifts for foodies

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The fireplace mantel

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*Interior designer and stylist
Abigail Ahern*

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PROJECT INSPIRATION

*7 cool festive looks: from chalet
chic to opulent metallics*



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EDITED BY AMY MOOREA WONG

I candy

Tired of televisions just getting bigger and flatter? So were Samsung, which turned to French creative visionaries Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec to bring design back into the mix. The result is the enigmatic Serif TV – a state-of-the-art device encased in a smooth 'I'-shaped frame. *Et voilà*, a screen that can be appreciated, whether switched on or off. From £600 (seriftv.com)



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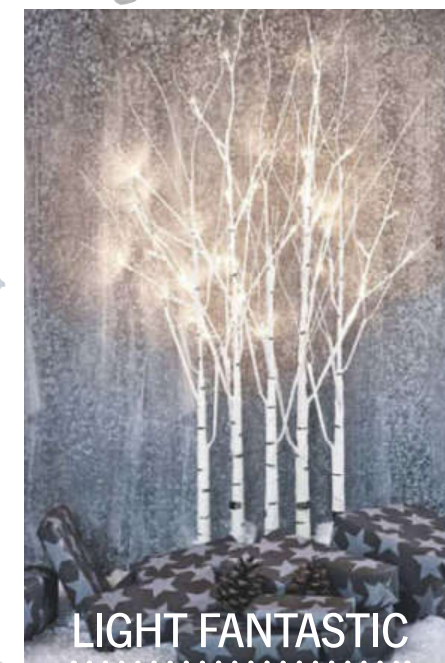


HOT LOVE

Yes, it's a kettle. The latest addition to Stelton's Emma range is so streamlined, it looks more like a jug. It comes with an insulated shell and limescale filter, but its masterstroke is its beech handle, which adds a dash of Danish style. Just don't fill it with milk... £119 (panik-design.com)

¡hola style!

Patricia Urquiola's Salinas kitchen for Boffi is inspired by the Spanish coastline of her childhood. The modular system is outlined with a black frame, which supports the copper units and open shelving. A hidden trench stores wiring to maximise space, while a jetty of walnut forms a breakfast bar. From £30,000 (boffi.com)



LIGHT FANTASTIC

Turn your garden into a sparkling midwinter forest with Cox & Cox's light-up silver birches. They come as a cluster of five and are wrapped in a weatherproof coating, so they'll shine on through the whitest of Christmases. A chic way to ensure Santa doesn't miss your house. £85 (coxandcox.co.uk)



GIVE IT A REST

Forever losing things down the side of the bath? Head over to Alternative Bathrooms. The new freestanding Saturn tub by Clearwater sits flat against the wall, forming a useful ledge, so your shampoo, rubber ducks or glass of prosecco will be within easy reach. Handy... £1,299 (alternativebathrooms.com)

PRETTY FLY

'Tis the season of magic, so the ideal time to debut this unbelievable levitating speaker by Red5. With flagrant disregard for the laws of gravity (but with the help of magnets), Helium Levitate floats off its base, spinning on its axis, while belting out your fave tunes via Bluetooth. Now *that's* what we call a party trick. £80 (selfridges.com)



THE EDITED CHOICE

Culinary gadgets

Give your fave foodie a gift they
can use beyond Christmas

Research – Jessica Latapie



THE ENTERTAINER

The party centrepiece, it's sociable, fun and dressed in the metal of the moment, copper. **Master Class Artesa fondue set**, £49.99, Kitchen Craft at Silver Mushroom



THE FITNESS FAN

A powerful blender complete with a sports bottle to just grab and go. No excuses for not getting that five-a-day. **SMP060SI Sport 2Go blender**, £29.50, Kenwood at Tesco



THE SHOW-OFF

Ideal for the 'cook from scratch' kind of chef, this pasta maker transforms the classic flour and water combo into fresh tagliatelle and fettuccine. **Imperia Italian pasta machine**, £49.95, Carluccio's



THE BARBECUE KING

From salmon to Christmas turkey, this spaceship-like gadget for the serious chef smokes almost anything. **ProQ Frontier Elite 3in1 BBQ smoker**, £259.98, Sous Chef



THE BAKER

Give the *GBBO* devotee in your life a hand in the kitchen with the chicest food mixer around. Bound to turn heads. **SMF01 stand mixer**, £349.95, Smeg



THE COFFEE LOVER

The cafetière's funky younger sibling gives a rich flavour and looks pretty damn cool in a range of different colours. **The Pour Over coffee maker**, £20, Bodum at John Lewis

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LOVES



THE GADGET MAGPIE

Keep fingers chilli-free with this handy silicone chopper. Simply insert those hot mamas, then roll till you've got the desired dice. **Piccantino chilli scruncher**, £15.50, Alessi



THE APP ENTHUSIAST

Complete with a wellness app that gives nutritional values of recipes, this hi-tech kitchen scale is sleek and slim for easy storage. **Nutriban scale**, £79.99, Lakeland



THE YOUNG ONE

For the junior sous chef who always wants to help, this retro popcorn maker is easy to use and also works a treat for movie night when the kids have gone to bed. **SMA Fifties-style popcorn maker**, £64.95, Selfridges

STYLE CLASSIC

The fireplace *mantel*

Designer Various.

Background Ever wondered where the sofa faced before the days of the TV? The fireplace, of course! And although many were ripped out during the Sixties, a fireplace has been a style statement for centuries.

Whether offering a resting place for drinks at a party or to show off family portraits – and more recently photographs – the mantel itself has reflected each era of design. Classical influences on Georgian architecture, for example, inspired rigidly square surrounds with intricately carved lines, while the prosperity of the Victorians meant ornate florals were commonplace, often with decorative tiles.

The Edwardians also favoured tiles, although a desire for simpler interiors saw cast-iron mantels get taller and slimmer. But it wasn't until the interwar years, with a need to rebuild homes more efficiently, that designs were pared back, with styles focusing on shape rather than intricate carvings.

Whatever the design, if you're lucky enough to have originals intact, you'll notice they're always largest on the ground floor of the house, typically where entertaining would happen, and smallest at the top where the serving quarters would have been.

Lacking an original in your home? You can pick up amazing antiques or excellent replicas that would fool even the keenest eye. You need somewhere to hang the stockings after all...

Details For a marble fireplace in this ornate style, check out Chesney's La Rochelle, £4,710.



Pearl's world

Choosing quality materials is key to a successful home refurb. Interior designer Pearl Lowe says, 'When it comes to windows, it has to be wood!'



LACE BASE: Pearl Lowe, *top*; her trademark boudoir chic, *above*; and wood windows in a period property by The Wood Window Alliance, *right*



Pearl Lowe's career in interior design started, she says, with one piece of lace. In 2001, she used a panel she'd dyed pink to decorate a bathroom window in a Camden house she was renovating. So many famous friends asked her to make one for them that she ended up selling her own curtain range at lifestyle boutique *du moment*, The Cross. She has since created collections of womenswear, childrenswear (with a new line for Harrods) and simultaneously run an interior design business. She is a mother of four, including the model Daisy, and is married to musician Danny Goffey, of Supergrass fame. She lives in Somerset.

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT INTERIORS PROJECTS?

I'm doing the interiors on three houses at the moment – in London and Somerset. One of them is a beautiful Georgian house, which will be very elegant when it's finished. I'm always working on my house in Somerset too. It's quite shabby chic and falling apart, but I like that.

WHERE DO YOU START WHEN THINKING ABOUT INTERIORS?

I start with the windows, making sure the client has beautiful wood frames first and then work the overall design of the room around them. That all affects how I think about the light. Sometimes if a room is really dark it can be cosy and romantic, but if it's already light, I open it up and add more white.

DEFINE YOUR INTERIORS LOOK.

People come to me if they want a romantic, boudoir style, but I do pretty much anything. I've just clad an entire barn so it looks like a log cabin and I'm doing up another place with white floorboards and walls. So I can do minimalism and maximalism. But it has to have a twist.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PET DESIGN HATES?

A house with PVC-u windows! I always insist on period-appropriate windows in the properties I renovate. If fitted correctly, they are just as efficient at keeping the warmth in.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON COLOUR? DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS?

For exteriors, I love original brick with a bit of colour on the window frames. Wood windows are particularly good for this, as you can paint them in any colour you fancy. I'm a big fan of Farrow & Ball's Green Blue or its Calamine Pink, which are both great if you have a traditional property but want to give it a bit of a modern twist. Always good to shake up the old and the new!

FINALLY, WHAT'S YOUR MOST RECENT INSPIRATION?

In Majorca recently, I was inspired by the wooden shutters. Painting them beautiful colours is such a lovely look. I did that once with an Edwardian house and it looked really French.

For more information on the benefits of wood windows, visit woodwindowalliance.com



The Wood Window Alliance
Love your home...

A LIFE IN DESIGN

ABIGAIL AHERN

The interior design wiz on her gutsy debut, how dark shades are way more daring and why faux flowers are suddenly blooming

Interview – Fiona McCarthy



1

2



3



4

1 Abigail gets cosy in a classic bubble chair
2 One of the dark, daring schemes Abigail created for her own London home
3 Bowery Blue emulsion, £33 for 2.5l, Abigail Ahern
4 Vanity oversized print, £250, Russ Lewis at Abigail Ahern
5 Great Sandy faux cactus, £168, Abigail Ahern

Multitalented interior designer, stylist, author and shopkeeper Abigail Ahern is renowned for her love of moody hues, luxe textures and faux flowers. With a serendipitous start in design (she actually bluffed her way into a job in the US without a scrap of interior design experience), she has gone on to inspire thousands with her books, blog and furniture and accessories ranges. Here, Abigail reveals her style secrets.

Tell us how your career in interior design began...

After college, I went to work for Sir Terence Conran's publishing house, researching imagery for a number of his books. Then, when I met my husband Graham, we relocated to the American Midwest, just outside Dallas, and it was the perfect opportunity to change career. I wanted to get into interior design – my

mother's an artist, so I knew I had an eye – but I had no training. Somehow, probably due to the Conran connection, I landed a job heading up an interior-design department at the age of 25.

How did this influence your work?

I couldn't follow rules because I didn't know them in the first place! I'm not a textbook designer – I like to work by intuition. When we moved back to the UK, I began editorial styling in a very micro way, which is how I ended up opening a shop. Then I wanted to make things that I couldn't find elsewhere.

Has your style evolved since then?

It's changed as I've grown more confident. At one point, everything was all Scandi and white for about five years until I realised it didn't feel sexy enough. I started longing for colour – warm, cosy and rich –



5



because against dark colours, everything else pops. It's also incredibly personal – there's nothing in my shop that I wouldn't have in my house. My home is my lab – I try out every new idea, everything we make, every tip I give there first. It's a space that stimulates me.

Why do you find dark colours so appealing?

For me, the inkier the colour, the better! Rooms with saturated colour are inviting and unapologetically glam. My latest thing is that I never paint the ceiling in a different tone – I use the same shade throughout (walls, ceiling, woodwork), that way, it helps the eye to focus on what's in the interior. Don't be scared – what's the worst thing that can happen? Just paint it again.

Do you have any other signature tricks?

I like to overdose on texture – it has great visual and tactile impact – but I mash it up with lots of rough and smooth. I'm into slubby, woolly things – I love to take my shoes off and plop down into something welcoming, like a sheepskin rug used as a throw on the sofa. With scale, even if you have a small room, include a supersized piece – a plant that's too big for the table or a huge chandelier – to give the space a sense of grandeur. Mirrors are a great way to expand the sense of horizon and add extra depth.

Which other accessories are worth investing in?

I like good-quality fabrics, chairs that feel enveloping and scented candles, but then I can easily run to Ikea for a shelf. And you don't need an eye-wateringly expensive curated art collection. Anything beautiful is art – a page torn from a book, a cool rusty sign, or a gorgeous rug hung on the wall.

What about lighting?

Good lighting is crucial for cosiness. You need at least eight lights, all at different levels – overhead, walls, floor and table lamps, plus candlelight.

You're known for your animal table lamps – how did they come about?

One day, when I was collecting my bulldog from dog school and I suddenly thought all these doggies would make cool lamps. The idea of an uptight, macho bulldog with a French taffeta shade really appealed to my sense of humour.

You're passionate about faux flowers. Why?

Flowers and plants are one of the easiest ways to make rooms feel lived in and loved, but if I had to fill the house with fresh blooms every week, I'd be broke. I started using a bunch of faux flowers to embellish a table in the store and suddenly we were blown away with requests. So now we're producing our own – this season, I'm having fun mixing wild English meadow blooms with tropical leaves.

What's a cool way to make plants even better?

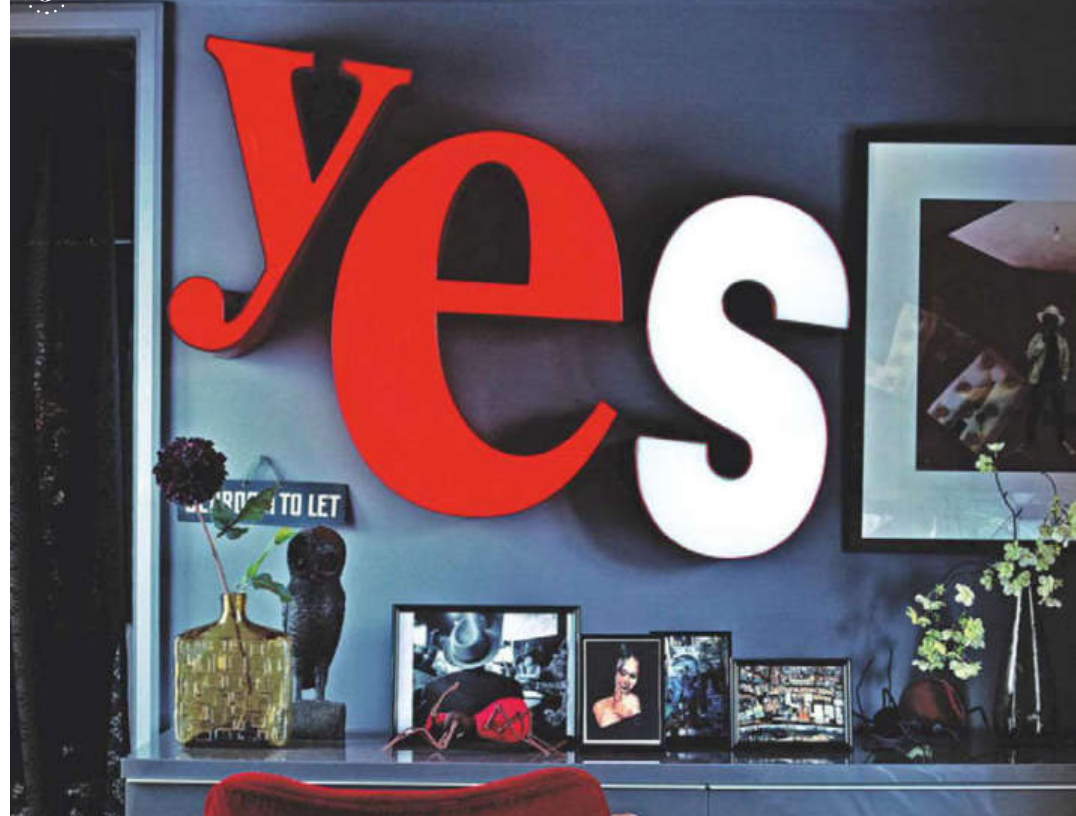
I like to mix up the containers to make sure it looks fresh – tubs all in one colour are very boring. Play with a combination of concrete, terracotta, wood, wicker or stone, with pointy plants teamed with feathery ones, matte with shiny, round with square...

It's almost Christmas. What will your home be like?

It will be a twinkling wonderland with lots of fairy lights and tea lights everywhere and the air scented with herbs, such as rosemary, thyme, eucalyptus and pine. I hang big mistletoe balls in the living room and then we rug up with hats and gloves to go outside and cook turkey or duck on the outdoor kitchen, while sipping hot toddies. For a couple of days, we stop thinking about work and simply chill out and relax.

To see more of Abigail's work, visit abigailahern.com or Abigail Ahern Flowers at Heal's (heals.co.uk)

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'My home is my lab – I try out every new idea, everything we make, every tip I give there first. It's a space that stimulates me'



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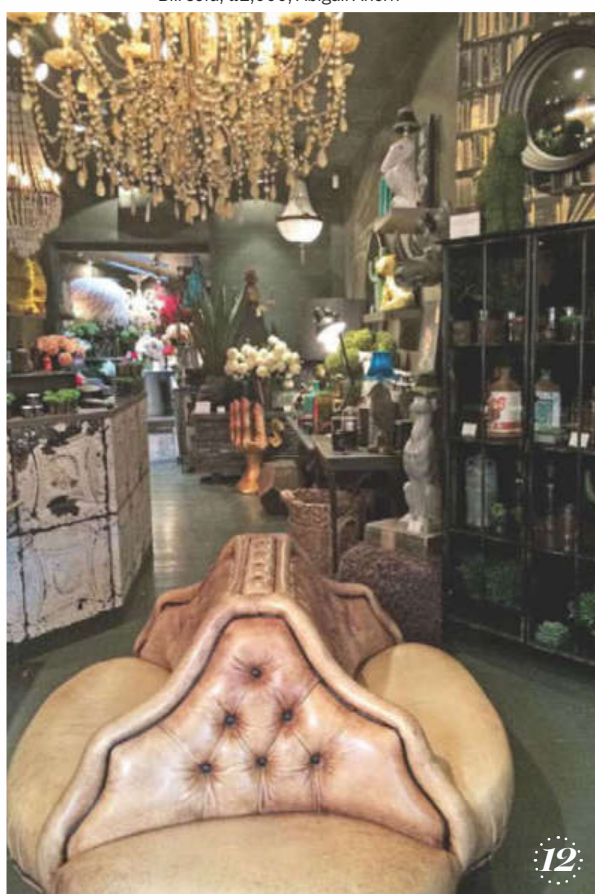
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6 Colour pop: Abigail's design for a heavenly home office, as featured in her book *Decorating with Style*, £16.99 (Quadrille Publishing) **7** Pelican table lamp with velvet shade, £85, Abigail Ahern/EDITION at Debenhams **8** American Tin Tiles wallpaper in Ivory and Black, £219 for a 10m roll, Abigail Ahern **9** Bloomin' marvellous: an alcove in Abigail's home gets a floral makeover **10** New Antique Books wallpaper, £185 for a 330cm drop, Deborah Bowness at Abigail Ahern **11** Neon brights: a shock of pink livens up this Ahern-designed living space **12** The interior of Atelier Abigail Ahern on Upper Street, London N1 **13** Wild Bill sofa, £2,000, Abigail Ahern



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designed to be different

7 COOL FESTIVE LOOKS

From feather boas to Amish stars, these sparkling ideas will give your Christmas celebration a contemporary twist

Words – Lola Borg

1. MODERN PASTELS

Always observe the pastels rule; a little goes a long way – unless you want a full-on boudoir look (best reserved for upstairs or little princesses). The whites (rug and mantel) plus the touch of black (marabou on the seat covers), provide anchoring and contrast and prevent the space looking too fluffy. It's not just colours but textures that are important here – think frills, floaty tissue paper, sheer net and feathers.

GET THE LOOK These wire Clouds, from £152 each, by Benedetta Mori Ubaldini for Magis Me Too are available at Made in Design. Pearl & Earl sells tissue pompoms, from £4 each. Find white ostrich feathers, from £2.48 each, at The Feather Factory. Try Tesco Direct for marabou feather trim, £4.75 for two metres.

2. OPULENT METALLICS

A mass of shiny gold and silver baubles instantly adds a luxe sheen.

'Christmas is a time for indulgence and nothing says glitz and glamour quite like metallic tones,' says interior designer Clarissa Hulse. She suggests warm gold, copper and brass tones or cool platinum and silver shades. 'Weave a few key pieces into your décor to achieve a feeling of sophisticated opulence,' she adds.

'Less is more, so start with a handful of beautiful curated baubles.'

GET THE LOOK Pictured right, oversized metallic baubles are suspended from the ceiling at different heights using sheer fishing wire. For giant baubles, from £7.50 each, try Liberty or John Lewis – they can be scattered in drifts on the floor as well.

GET THE LOOK This scheme uses traditional metallic baubles, mixed with tea lights and candles clustered on to any available surface. In an understated space, simple elements can be overloaded to create a festive look without it seeming overdone. Try lights4fun.co.uk for similar fairy lights, from £4.99.



*'To give
your home a
gorgeous scent
throughout the
festive season,
start with pine
branches, then
add fragrant
eucalyptus'*

NIKKI TIBBLES,
FLORIST AND FOUNDER,
WILD AT HEART

3. RUSTIC WHITES

When it comes to natural schemes, white is the ultimate festive look, so Christmas is the prime time to go just a little bit country. Keep lighting soft to warm up the space and veer away from anything too clinical. Liberally use white on white and add texture – glass, rough wood, twigs and branches from the garden. Use floral touches sparingly to keep it urban rustic rather than full-on rural.

GET THE LOOK Don't attempt to paint a real tree with foliage spray. Instead, try an amazing faux-tree, such as Tesco's 7ft flocked Braemar, £250. Keep it country by using home-made decorations, such as these pinwheel paper fans and wrap presents in newsprint or brown paper. Find brown paper at John Lewis, £4.50 for a 10m roll.

STYLE THAT TREE

LIGHTS FIRST. Find out if they're evenly placed by turning them on and looking at the tree from the other side of the room through squinted, half-closed eyes (this really works). Secure your tree so it's rock solid before you add baubles.

LARGE THEN SMALL. If you're using oversized ribbons, baubles, tinsel, bows or stars, place those first around the tree. Dot on smaller decorations to fill the gaps.

STICK TO A THEME. Whether it's knitted baubles, wooden cubes, candy canes or glass animal baubles, one repeated element can make a huge impact.

OR MIX IT UP. A mishmash of shapes, colours, sizes and materials can look fabulous too – get everyone to choose their favourite decoration (children love this) and hang it where they want. Find vintage baubles on eBay or Etsy.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BAUBLES. Think alternatives – old photocopied family photos hung by ribbons make stylish, personalised decorations. Look at the Tate Britain Christmas Tree for inspiration – the gallery commissions a different artist each year; once, the tree was decorated with broken white plates and looked amazing.

4. SCANDI GLAMOUR

Simple and understated, this is a sophisticated and modern festive look that works for design aficionados. Here, the touches of wood keep this interior clean and welcoming rather than sterile, which is always a risk with white on white. The metallic cake stands with tea lights add a luxe touch. 'White is my favourite base colour for a yuletide scheme, says Dan Cooper, Christmas buyer at John Lewis. 'It's cool, fresh and contemporary and looks great in a modern setting.'

GET THE LOOK Keep decorations minimal and carefully chosen, such as these white paper stars, £5 each, from skandihome.com. Source similar vintage Amish barn stars, £155 each, at beyondfrance.co.uk. Metallic pompoms can be found at Pearl & Earl.

TOP TABLES

MAKE A TABLE RUNNER. Wallpaper can make an excellent and unusual runner.

ADD A PERSONAL TOUCH. One simple object – a name written on a shell or stone, a personalised cracker or a bauble – gives a sense of occasion. 'I like to add little personal touches on the table – a flower stem or vintage bauble placed at each setting really completes the look,' says Tricia Guild, creative director of Designers Guild.

THINK CANDLES, CANDLES AND MORE CANDLES.

Different sizes look more interesting. For large gatherings or those with children, use battery-operated candles and tea lights instead of the real thing (find them at Ikea).

KEEP FLORAL TABLE DISPLAYS LOW. Ten inches is the maximum to be under eye level (otherwise guests have to strain to see each other through the leaves). Or just scatter the table with foliage – think pine cones, berries, dried cinnamon and eucalyptus branches.



'I only use candles and tea lights at the table, with the minimum of electric light. It's flattering and brings home the essence of Christmas tradition'

WILLIAM YEOWARD,
DESIGNER

5. FRESH FOLIAGE

Think outside the box with winter evergreens. Wild at Heart's Nikki Tibbles suggests using eucalyptus branches. 'Once you have these in place,' she says, 'wire on items, such as pine cones and dried orange slices, as well as your favourite baubles, to give it a personal touch.'

GET THE LOOK This hanging decoration is made up of evergreens – trailing ivy, asparagus fern and amaranth (aka Love Lies Bleeding) mixed with baubles and mini terrariums. Find mini terrariums, £24.99 each, at beut.co.uk.



GET THE LOOK Nikki Tibbles created this garland with evergreen baby eucalyptus and blue pine branches, before adding dried chrysanthemum and hydrangea, plus dipped gold lotus buds. Visit Wild at Heart for more festive foliage. →



6. BOLD ORIENTAL

Turn traditional Christmas clichés on their head with simple decorations that make the most of pure, undiluted colour. Think Chinese New Year shades – festive red, of course, but also pink, orange and yellow used with graphic shapes and bold lighting, so the space becomes modern festive rather than plain Christmassy.

GET THE LOOK Graphic pinwheel fans and bead wreaths add easy flashes of festive colour. Paperchase sells a similar multicoloured bauble wreath, £10. Find a selection of pinwheel paper fans at partyparade.co.uk. For paper fans, from £2.45 each, try fantastica-uk.co.uk.

7. CHALET CHIC

Channel the Alpine ski-lodge look by keeping interiors sparse, but cosy and laid-back. The key to this style is a backdrop of natural materials – pale, waxed-timber floors, stone and wood. With that in place, overload on accessories in the same vibe, such as reindeer antlers, then add furs or skins – deck floors with rugs and sofas with cushions and throws. A wood-burning stove helps complete the mood, then you can risk dropping in a few borderline kitsch items, such as the classic fondue set!

GET THE LOOK This 743 wood-burning stove, £2,480, is by Monica Ritterband for Morsø. This is the Snowmass Picnic mounted print, from £295, by Slim Aarons for Getty Images at Surface View. To personalise this effect, blow up one of your own ski pictures at Snappy Snaps, price dependent on size.



‘Candelabras look lovely at Christmas, providing a warm glow of soft light to your space, or used as a table centrepiece’

CLARISSA HULSE,
INTERIOR DESIGNER



GET THE LOOK This ten-arm antler candelabra, £785, is from Clock House Furniture. Find a similar tureen at Anthropologie. The Springbok rug, £85, is from Graham and Green.

THIS PICTURE Hôtel de Rougemont's Lounge offers panoramic views. The fireplace is made from stone, worn and weathered by the local Sarine river. BELOW An understated chalet bedroom with clean lines offset by cosy wollens and furs



Natural highs

Luxe ski breaks that deliver as much in style as they do in snow

Words – Paula Rodney, Steven Efstathiou and Louise Sugrue

Christmas just feels so much more magical with snow, an open fire and mountain views. And with a flurry of impressive hotels to discover across Europe and the US, powder fans are not only being treated to exhilarating runs, with near guarantees of snow, but also super-luxe facilities for relaxing *après-ski*. (That's also good news for the not-so-bothered about the skiing or snowboarding part of the trip...)

Joining the stylish Le Lodge Park with a refurbished spa in über-glam Megève, France, are newcomers Nira Montana on the Italian/French border and Hôtel de Rougemont, near Gstaad – both offering accommodation with high aesthetics as well as *haute cuisine*. While the Viceroy Snowmass in Aspen, Colorado, combines the best of alpine tradition with America's hospitality and climate.

So whether you're looking for the thrills of a new *off-piste* trail or sharing your derring-do with friends over a warming cocktail in the bar, consider our pick of iced gems before you book.



HOTEL DE ROUGEMONT, *Switzerland*

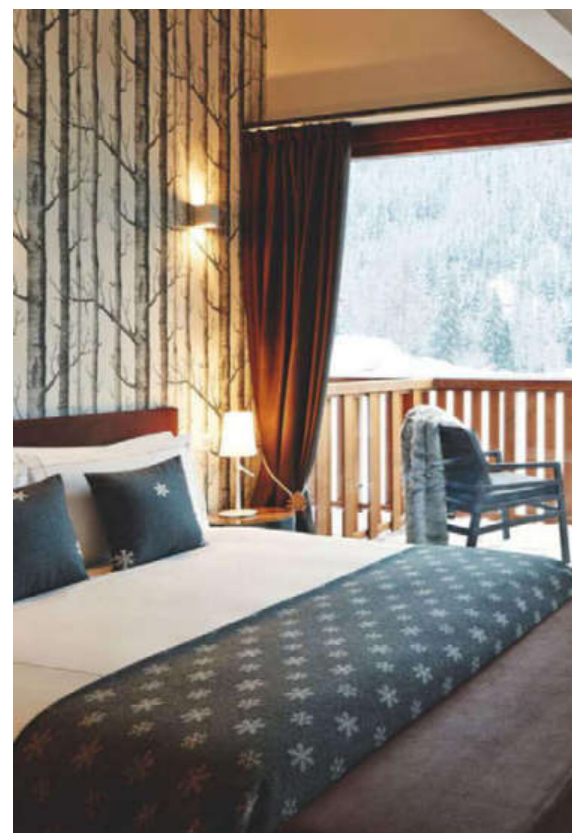
THE LOWDOWN A cosy boutique-style hotel, a stone's throw from Gstaad.
BEST FOR Ski bunnies after relaxed chic on the slopes.

A neighbour of glitzy Gstaad, the recently opened Hôtel de Rougemont is yet to be fully embraced by the A-list, but that day can't be far off, as this place serves up boutique-hotel style at its finest. Set amid mind-blowing scenery, it's heaven for skiing enthusiasts. Decked out like a traditional chalet but on an epic scale, Hôtel de Rougemont is all about cosy luxe. Think fir panelling in the bedrooms, plush leather headboards and snugly furnishings. It's a good size too, with 12 rooms, 13 suites and 8 junior suites, each with a south-facing balcony or terrace. The dining experience is first rate and one of the highlights of a stay has to be cosying up by the fireplace while enjoying the array of savoury sensations from the grill. If you can tear yourself away from the luxurious spa and pristine powder, that is.

BOOK IT Double rooms from £234 (designhotels.com).

NIRA MONTANA, *La Thuile, Italy*

THE LOWDOWN Top-class resort bringing affordable skiing to Mont Blanc.
BEST FOR Sports freaks of every persuasion – from snowboarding to rafting.
 La Thuile's north-facing exposure and unique position in the Alps, with a foothold in both Italy and France, means it gets snow from every direction. What could be better, then, than a chic ski retreat located at the heart of such a perfect location? Nira Montana is the first five-star hotel to be built in the area – and it shows. Inside the unassuming timber and stone building, you'll find warm, inviting schemes layered with luxe leather seating, Foscarini light fittings and reclaimed wood-clad walls. Each of the 55 bedrooms and suites boasts a private balcony or terrace and the public spaces include a spa, complete with indoor pool, saunas, hammam and four treatment rooms. The restaurant serves seasonal Italian fare, ranging from locally produced pâtés to stuffed pigeon, while an in-house trattoria prepares red-hot pizzas in its traditional wood burner... Just the thing after a long day on the slopes.
BOOK IT Double rooms from approx £145 (niramontana.com).



CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE Nira Montana's picture postcard façade; the raw-timber industrial-style bar awaits; and savour the mountain view from your own balcony in a Grand Deluxe room

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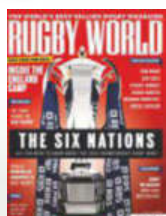
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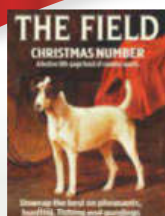
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VICEROY SNOWMASS, *Colorado, USA*

THE LOWDOWN A Rocky Mountain getaway with seriously great powder.

BEST FOR Extended skiing – the slopes are open six months of the year.

Aspen's premier ski resort offers access to four mountains, 338 trails, thousands of feet of vertical drop and several state-of-the-art snowboard and cross-country parks – all within a 12-mile radius. Located a short ski up from the Assay Hill chairlift, the Viceroy Snowmass may have the appearance of Stanley Kubrick's Overlook Hotel at first glance, but inside, this is one chic place to stay. The 173 studios were designed by architect Jean-Michel Gathy and, as is his style, are off the decadence Richter scale. All feature king- or queen-size beds, high-definition TVs and gas fireplaces with granite surrounds. After a day on the slopes, head for the heated saline pool and the hot tubs, or book a treatment in the spa.

Sophisticated dining, pub-inspired food and French culinary fare are available in the hotel's restaurants and for the kids, the Viceroy even has its own playroom.

As you'd expect, our American cousins never do things by halves...

BOOK IT Double rooms from approx £295 (scottdunn.com)*



CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE Viceroy Snowmass's year-round heated outdoor pool; an eco-luxe one-bedroom suite; and an en-suite bathroom with his and her basins



*Scott Dunn offers 7 nights at Viceroy Snowmass from £2,550 per person, based on a family of 4 sharing a one-bedroom suite, plus den on a room-only basis. Price includes flights from the UK, private transfers and taxes. scottdunn.com/020 8682 5050





CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE Le Lodge Park's feather-fringed Beef Lodge restaurant with log ceiling; the cosy fur-laden terrace; and a Classic room's earthy vibe is punctuated with red tartan and glam metallics



LE LODGE PARK, *Megève, France*

THE LOWDOWN The romantic, go-to resort for the beautiful people.

BEST FOR Carnivores with a penchant for relaxed, witty style.

There's chalet chic and then there's chalet chic with wit and humour. Handily close to the ski lifts, Le Lodge Park's rock and timber exterior may be unremarkable, but inside, it's rock'n'roll antlers, furs and leathers à-gogo. In ordinary surroundings, this would be OTT, but in chichi Megève (France's answer to St Moritz, and an hour from Geneva), the eclectic luxe vibe works well. The 49 bedrooms, including 11 suites, have a calmer mood, with tartan walls and Ralph Lauren homeware. Food-wise, the feather-fringed Beef Lodge is a carnivore's delight – think *haute* steakhouse with leather Chesterfields and the finest cuts of meat, truffles and scallops. (The Apple Spice cocktail is a must.) After exploring the 445km of local piste (including Europe's prettiest runs), treat yourself to a snow crystals body scrub in the newly refurbished spa, or a romantic horse-drawn carriage ride around the medieval village centre.

BOOK IT Double rooms from £108.65 (mrandmrsmith.com).



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STAR BAKES

Whether you layer, hang or ice them, Donna Hay's delicious biscuits will add a dusting of festive magic

Chocolate cookie Christmas tree

- 1 x quantity basic vanilla snap cookie dough (see recipe right)
- 25g cocoa, sifted

FORTHE ICING

- 80g icing sugar, sifted
- 2 teaspoons boiling water
- icing sugar, for dusting

• Follow the basic vanilla snap cookie dough recipe, adding the cocoa with the flour. Roll out the dough between two sheets of non-stick baking paper to 3mm thick and refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until firm.

• Preheat the oven to 160°C/gas mark 3. Using 3cm, 4cm, 5cm, 6cm, 7cm, 8cm, 9cm, 10cm, 11cm and 12cm six-pointed star cookie cutters, cut out three stars of each size, re-rolling the dough as necessary. Place on large, lightly greased baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper and bake for 10 minutes. Allow to cool slightly before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

• To make the icing, mix to combine the icing sugar and water until smooth. Stack the stars starting from the largest to the smallest, securing each star with a little icing. Dust the tree with icing sugar to serve.



Basic vanilla snap cookie dough

- 125g unsalted butter, softened
- 110g caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 225g plain flour, sifted
- Place the butter and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat for 6-8 minutes, or until pale and creamy. Add the egg and vanilla and beat for a further 2-3 minutes, or until well combined. Add the flour and beat until the mixture just comes together to form a smooth dough.

Basic gingerbread cookie dough

- 125g unsalted butter, softened
- 90g brown sugar
- 230g golden syrup
- 375g plain flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda, sifted
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- Place the butter and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat for 6-8 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl, until pale and creamy. Add the golden syrup, flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and mixed spice and beat until the mixture just comes together to form a smooth dough.

Photography – Chris Court
Styling – Steve Pearce





Gingerbread heart garland ↑

Makes 80 heart biscuits

- 1 x quantity basic gingerbread cookie dough (see recipe on page 167)

- Follow the basic gingerbread cookie dough recipe, divide in half and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Roll out each piece of dough between two sheets of non-stick baking paper to 5mm thick and refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until firm.
- Preheat the oven to 160°C/gas mark 3. Using a 3.5cm heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut out 80 hearts, re-rolling the dough as necessary. Using the tip of a 3mm nozzle, cut a hole from the top of each heart. Place on large, lightly greased baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper and bake for 12-15 minutes, or until golden and firm. Allow to cool slightly before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
- Thread twine through the hole of each cookie and hang carefully.

Chocolate peanut butter and jam sandwiches ↓

Makes 20

- 1 x quantity basic vanilla snap cookie dough (see recipe on page 167)
- 25g cocoa, sifted
- 280g smooth peanut butter
- 160g strawberry jam
- Follow the basic vanilla snap cookie dough recipe, adding the cocoa with the flour. Roll out the dough between two sheets of non-stick baking paper to 5mm thick and refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until firm.
- Preheat the oven to 160°C/gas mark 3. Using 4.5cm, 5cm and 6.5cm round cookie cutters, cut out 40 rounds, re-rolling the dough as necessary. Place on large, lightly greased baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper and bake for 6 minutes. Allow to cool on trays slightly before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.
- Place the peanut butter in a piping bag fitted with a 1cm fluted piping nozzle. Pipe around the edge of half of the cookies.
- Fill the centres with the strawberry jam and sandwich with the remaining cookies.



Star wreaths

Makes 4

- 1x quantity basic vanilla snap cookie dough (see recipe on page 167)
- icing sugar, for dusting

- Follow the basic vanilla snap cookie dough recipe and roll the dough out between two sheets of non-stick baking paper to 3mm thick. Refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until firm.
- Preheat the oven to 140°C/gas mark 1. Using an 8cm star cutter, cut 28 stars from the dough, re-rolling as necessary. Line two large lightly greased baking trays with non-stick baking paper. Trace two 14cm rounds on to each tray and arrange 7 stars around each circle, tips overlapping. Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until golden. Allow to cool on the trays completely.
- Dust with the icing sugar and tie with twine or ribbon to hang. Store in an airtight container for 2-3 days and hang on Christmas Eve.

Lemon and vanilla snowflakes ↓

Makes 25

- 1 x quantity basic vanilla snap cookie dough (see recipe on page 167)
- 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon rind

FOR THE ICING

- 160g icing sugar, sifted
- 1 tablespoon boiling water

- Follow the basic vanilla snap cookie dough recipe, adding the lemon rind with the egg and vanilla. Roll out the dough between two sheets of non-stick baking paper to 3mm thick and refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until firm.
- Preheat the oven to 140°C/gas mark 1. Using assorted snowflake cutters, cut out 25 shapes, re-rolling the dough as necessary. Place the shapes on large, lightly greased trays lined with non-stick baking paper and use a 2mm piping nozzle or a wooden skewer to make a hole at the edge of each cookie. Bake for 8-10 minutes, or until light golden. Allow to cool for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
- To make the icing, mix to combine the icing sugar and water until smooth. Place in a piping bag fitted with a 2mm nozzle and pipe on the cookies to decorate.
- Thread twine through the hole of each cookie once the icing is set and hang carefully.



Jam cookie sandwiches ↑

Makes 12

- 1 x quantity basic vanilla snap cookie dough (see recipe on page 167)
- icing sugar, for dusting
- 110g raspberry jam

- Follow the basic vanilla snap cookie dough recipe and roll out the dough between two sheets of non-stick baking paper to 3mm thick. Refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until firm.
- Preheat the oven to 160°C/gas mark 3. Using a 6cm fluted square cutter, cut out 24 shapes from the dough. Using a 3cm heart, acorn, dove and bell cutter, cut shapes from the centre of half the squares, reserving the cutouts. Place the squares and reserved cutouts on two large, lightly greased baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper and bake for 10-12 minutes, or until light golden. Allow to cool for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Dust the cut-out squares (and cutouts) with icing sugar.
- Spread the plain squares with jam and sandwich with the cut-out squares.

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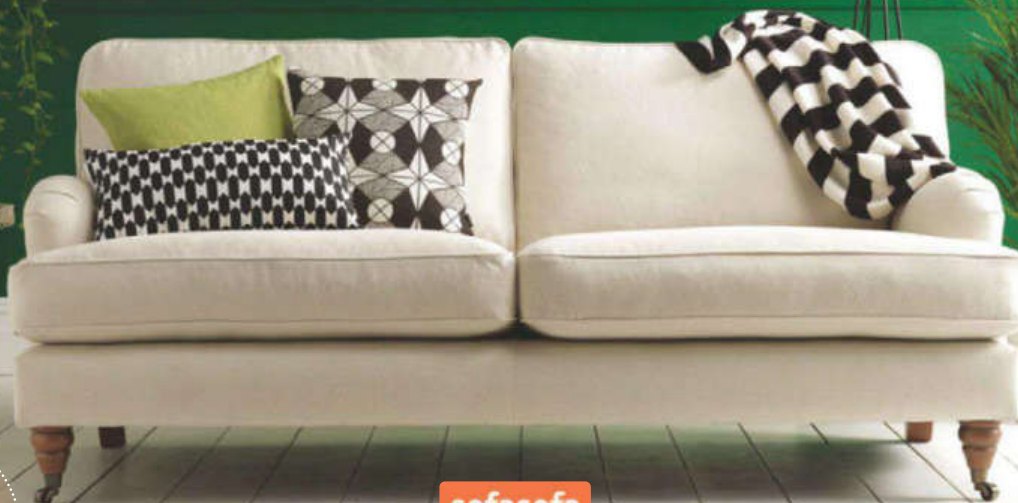
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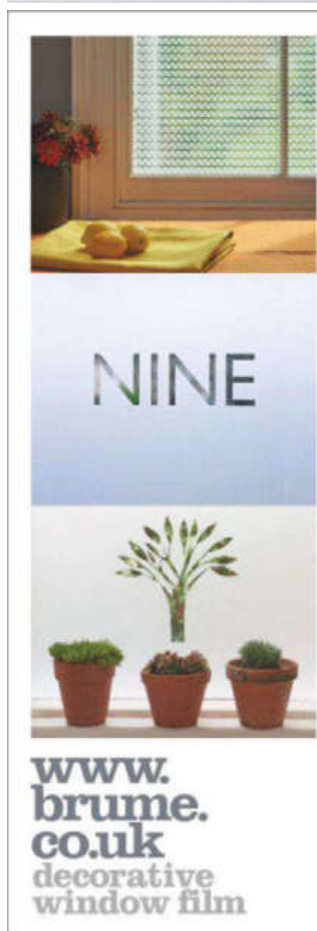


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#PlanetLivingetc

Take a peek at what team @Livingetc got up to while creating this issue



Dinner ladies

Editor Suzanne heads to @AustraliaHouse for a divine dinner courtesy of @DonnaHay #delish



We join the #Focus15 circus with our spot at @DesignCentreCH #LDF15



Chief sub-editor Paula dispels the never-work-with-children-or-animals myth on the *A Magical Christmas* shoot (page 59)



News editor @AmyMoorea tries to convince @Cath_Kidston's Father Christmas she's been good all year



Xmas cheer

By Christmas press show number 13, things got a bit out of control with the @Georgeatasda novelty baubles



The @JoMaloneLondon Morris Minor van makes for a very #specialdelivery



Style assistant Jesse emerges from Narnia via the usual route of the wardrobe on the *A Magical Christmas* shoot



It's story time with associate editor @SarBaldwin on the *A Magical Christmas* shoot



Art attack!

Deputy editor @NeilMcLenn brushes up his painting skills with @duluxuk creative director Marianne Shillingford #colourfutures16

Can't wait until next month's issue? Get your daily fix of behind-the-scenes action and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest

MISSED LAST MONTH'S ISSUE? Contact the Back Issues Department, PO Box 772, Peterborough PE2 6WJ; 01733 385 170; mags-uk.com

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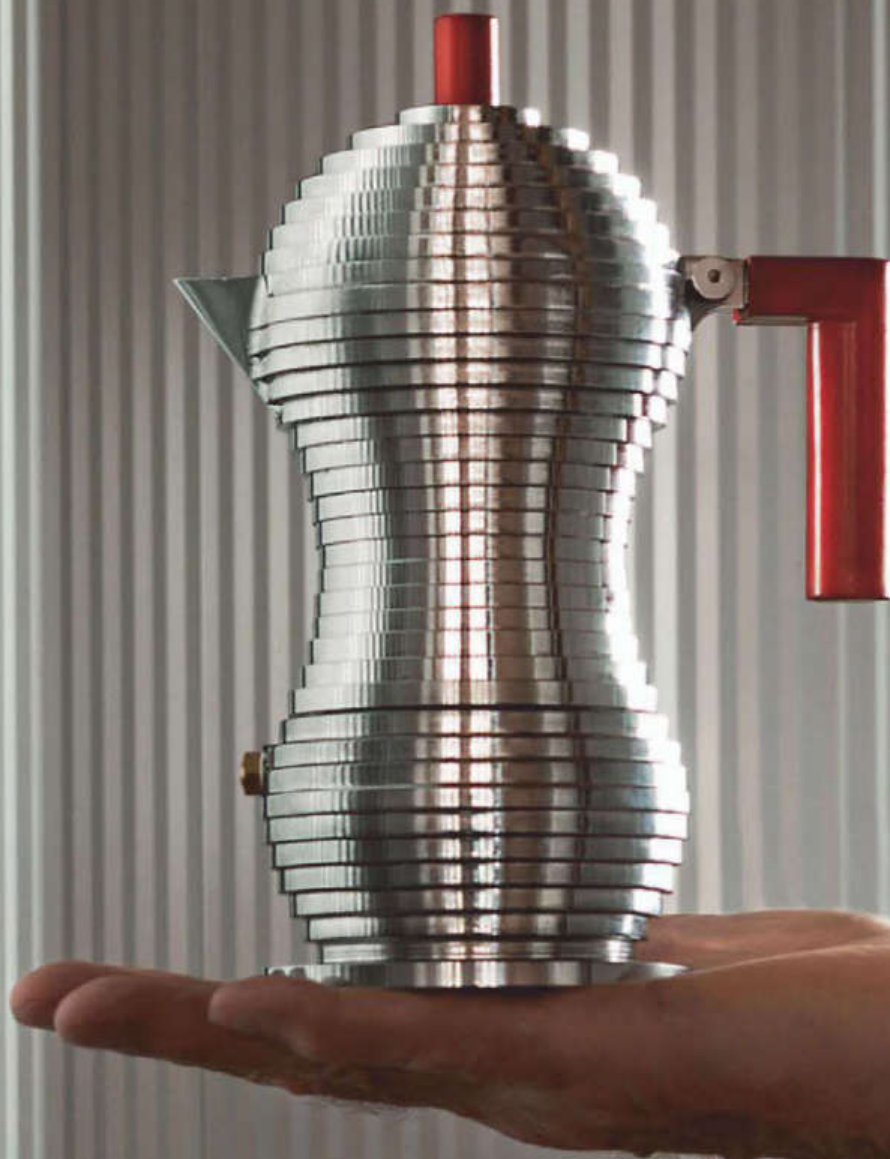


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COMFORT AND JOY

To satisfy all your festive needs – from real trees, lights and decorations to seasonal food and great gifts – Dobbies Garden Centres has everything under one roof

As the song goes, it's the most wonderful time of the year. The season when we all get to festoon fragrant trees with sparkly lights and hang shiny stars from green boughs, before entertaining friends and family and indulging in plenty of yuletide spirit.

Preparing for the festive season, however, can be a daunting thought. With gifts to buy, food to order, decorations to find and greenery to acquire, most people's to-do lists are already pretty extensive. So it's good to know there's a place where you can get hold of everything you need to make Christmas special in one fell swoop. That place is your nearest Dobbies, which has so much more than you'd expect to find at your local garden centre.

From real firs, fairy lights and a huge range of exclusive decorations that ensure you'll have the most beautiful tree to seasonal food that will not only impress your guests, but make

feeding them a breeze, Dobbies is a one-stop shop. You can even find great gifts there, from treats for the green-fingered to stocking fillers for all the family. It doesn't matter what style of home you have either, as Dobbies' design team has sourced and created some beautiful looks that are on-trend and versatile – working everywhere from city pad to country cottage.

To deliver a memorable and stylish Christmas for your friends and family this year, look no further than Dobbies. It's got Christmas delivered!

CHRISTMAS DELIVERED


Dobbies
 GARDEN CENTRES
Brighten your day

RETRO RED

It's the traditional colour of Christmas, but given a modern twist this year at Dobbies

It's the colour of Santa's suit, holly berries, candy canes and Rudolph's nose. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without an underlying palette of rich red to brighten up the often grey winter days. But it doesn't have to be just comfortingly traditional. Dobbies has mixed red with silver to put a new spin on a classic festive red and white combo. But the real surprise comes from

the addition of shots of aqua, which give a fresh impact to baubles, tree decorations and homeware.

Thematically, think of Santa preparing for his midnight ride, with references to the mythical North Pole, animal motifs and 3-D baubles. These ideas will appeal to anyone looking for something new and different – as they put a fresh twist on the traditional Christmas look – it's retro but not as we know it...

TOP TIP

Cluster baubles together in odd numbers to create impact on your tree.

*Craig Roman,
head of
in-store design,
Dobbies*



1 Leaf stockings, £5.99 each; cable stockings, £11.99 each; string lights, £19.99; 2.1m Keilder tree, £169.99; boots decorations, £2.99 each; church scene baubles, £6.99 each; orb droplets, £3.99 each; spinning top baubles, £3.99 each; twig and bird baubles, £3.99 each; Santa head baubles, £4.99 each; letter to Santa baubles, £4.99 each; glitter baubles, £3.99 each; Christmas lantern, £2.99; tree tea-light holder, £12.99; JOY cushion, £19.99; stags cushion, £19.99; and stag and tree lantern, £14.99



2 Stag and tree lantern, £14.99 **3** Spinning top bauble, £3.99 **4** Red droplet, £3.99 **5** Church scene cloche, £17.99 **6** Stags cushion, £19.99 **7** Panettone, £14.99; marmalade in Kilner jar, £5.99; Amaretti biscuits in tin, £6.99; and Christmas pudding fudge, £3.99 each



COPPER WOODLAND

Sparkle and shine with a nod to the modern metallics trend. It's all about the glow!

For the past few years, copper has been having a moment in our homes. This year, Dobbies brings the look to Christmas, with a theme that's rich, opulent and full of rustic charm. Mixing copper with flashes of gold moves the trend on, adding just the right amount of bling to the wood, leather, fur and wicker accessories. In keeping with the woodland theme, foxes, pheasants and squirrels pop up on cushions and the occasional stag even rears its majestic head! Casual, cosy, country elegance.

1 2.1m cashmere-tip tree, £299.99; copper **baubles**, £2.99 each; glitter **baubles**, £2.99 each; pinecone **baubles**, £2.99 each; teardrop **baubles**, £2.99 each; onion **baubles**, £2.99 each; mushroom **decorations**, £2.99 each; squirrel **decorations**, £2.99 each; tree and robin **baubles**, £2.99 each; fox **cushion**, £14.99; pheasant **cushion**, £14.99; stag **canvas**, £14.99; tweed **mouse**, £9.99; **squirrels**, £4.99 each; deer **head**, £7.99; **lantern**, £14.99; **tea-light holder**, £9.99; copper finish **vase**, £14.99; and 10 LED **heart lights**, £5.99



3



4



5



6



7



2 Pinecone hurricane lantern, £8.99; tea-light holders on wooden tray, £16.99; antique-look gold stag, £24.99; and hurricane lantern, £12.99 **3** Frosted tea-light holder, £1.99 **4** Fox cushion, £14.99 **5** Copper stone-finish vase, £14.99 **6** Stag tea-light holder £2.49 **7** Antique gold stag, £24.99



- 1** Cranmere 2.2m tree with LED lights, £299.99; and fairy tree topper, £7.99 **2** Bark lantern, £7.99 **3** 20-inch wreath with stars, £19.99 **4** Fairy Queen decoration, £6.99 **5** Ribbed bauble, £8.99 **6** Onion bauble, £4.99 **7** Rocking horse decoration, £4.99



A FAIRY TALE CHRISTMAS

From boughs of holly to whimsical baubles, Dobbies has all you need to make a home magical

A beautifully decorated tree is the centrepiece to any festive scheme and finding the perfect greenery is the first step. A Dobbies Garden Centre is a great port of call as not only can you buy your real tree there, but it also has all the accessories you need to take care of the fun bit – the decorating! This year, Dobbies has let its imagination run riot with a selection of fantasy decorations and toppers, inspired by elves, fairies and enchanted creatures.

GIFTS FOR GARDENERS

Dobbies has just the thing for you, your green-fingered friends and family...

While a plant is always a welcome present for anyone with a penchant for growing things, a trip to your nearest Dobbies Garden Centre will unearth a host of more imaginative ideas appealing to anyone of a horticultural bent. Pick up a planter, lanterns, decorations and accessories inspired by the great outdoors. You'll find plenty to inspire – some of which you may wish to keep to decorate your own home with. Go on, treat yourself (or anyone on your gift list).



- 1** Topiary decoration, £2.99 **2** Stag decoration, £7.99 **3** Glass lantern, £16.99 **4** Poinsettia in pot, £7.99 **5** Glitter trees, £9.99; silver watering can decoration, £2.99; and Olive throw, £49.99



Dobbies
GARDEN CENTRES

Brighten your day

Dobbies offers inspiration and advice to help you make the most of your home and garden. For more ideas on getting your home ready for Christmas, visit your nearest Dobbies Garden Centre or see dobbies.com/christmas